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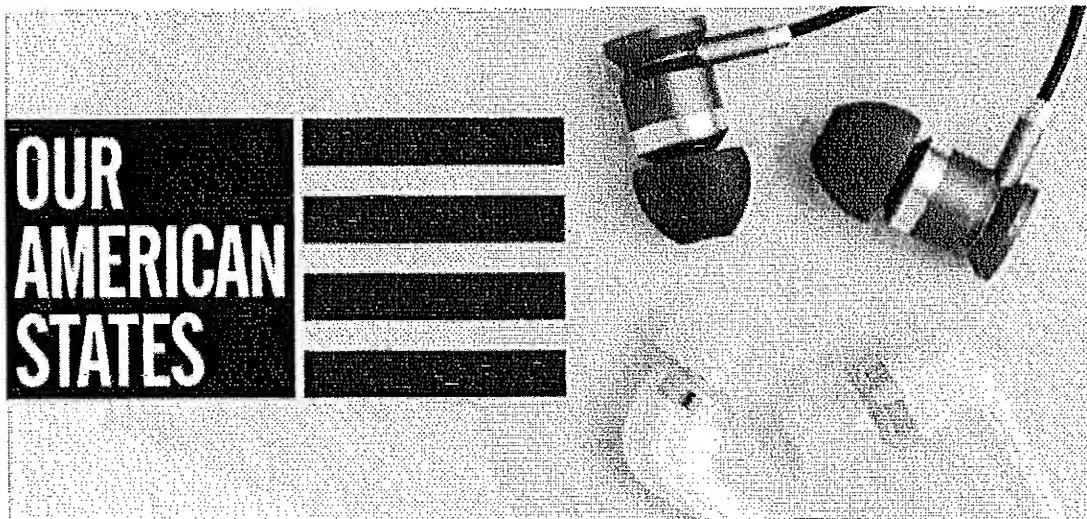
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U.S. Supreme Court Cases to Watch This Term



Five cases that the U.S. Supreme Court has put on its docket for the current term could have a significant impact on states. State legislatures are waiting for decisions on these cases, and could

**Don't miss these
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Our American
States:**

cause them to change state laws depending on how the court rules. And a potentially explosive sixth case is waiting in the wings.

Our guests this episode are **Lisa Soronen**, executive director of the State and Local Legal Center, and **Susan Frederick**, senior federal affairs counsel at NCSL.

The cases we examine are:

- *Gill v. Whitford*, a Wisconsin case in which the court may decide whether partisan gerrymandering is unconstitutional.
- *Masterpiece Cakeshop, Ltd. v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, looks at whether Colorado's public accommodations law violates a cake artist's First Amendment free speech and free exercise rights.
- *Janus v. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees* the court will address whether unions can collect dues from nonmembers.
- *Husted v. A. Philip Randolph Institute* looks at Ohio's procedures to remove voters from their rolls after four years of inactivity.
- *Christie v. National Collegiate Athletic Association* may decide how far Congress can regulate states and localities in the absence of comprehensive federal regulation.

And, as a bonus, we'll discuss what could happen if the court accepts a South Dakota case that could overturn the 1992 *Quill Corp v North Dakota*, which said states could not force business to collect sales or use taxes unless it has a physical presence in a state.

The Role of States
and Governments
in Natural Disasters

Cybersecurity: It's
More Than
Elections

School Buses;
Safety and Seat
Belts

Federalism: The
"Hamilton" State
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OHIO REPORT MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

\$2.62 Billion Capital Budget Prioritizes Projects To Address Opiate Addiction, Related Issues

Cardinal Health Among Drug Distributors Targeted In Latest DeWine Opioid Suit

Nearly \$29M In State IT Funding Clears Controlling Board

Adult Charge Stemming From Juvenile Conviction Challenged At High Court

Ohio Groups Debate Trump's Short-Term Health Plan Proposal

Travel Trailer Maker Tops List Of Tax Credits Issued By State Panel

Kasich Declares Emergency As Flood Risks Continue

Cyberattack Temporarily Shuts Down State Websites, Phones

Environmental Group Calls For Setback, Chemical Reporting Changes Following Well Fire

Schiavoni, Williams Plan Firearm Removal Bill; Yost Unveils School Safety Plan; High Court Hears Janus Case; Kucinich Continues Gun Push...

Governor's Appointments

Supplemental Event Planner

ACTIVITY REPORTS

===== A

House

Senate

CALENDARS

=====

Day Planner

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Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, February 27

Legislative Committees

Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce (Committee Record) (Chr. LaRose, F., 466-4823), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:30 a.m.

- HB 159** **MONTH DESIGNATION** (Riedel, C.) To designate May as "Drive Ohio Byways Month." (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 195** **WHEELCHAIR TRANSPORTS** (Ingram, C., Seitz, B.) To modify the provisions concerning the transport of persons who require the use of a wheelchair or other mobility aid in nonemergency circumstances. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- HCR 19** **HATE GROUPS** (Leland, D., Greenspan, D.) To denounce and oppose the totalitarian impulses, violent terrorism, xenophobic biases, and bigoted ideologies that are promoted by white nationalists and neo-Nazis, to urge law enforcement to recognize white nationalist and neo-Nazi groups as terrorist organizations, and to pursue the criminal elements of these domestic terrorist organizations in the same manner and with the same fervor used to protect the United States from other manifestations of terrorism. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 336** **LICENSE FEES** (Barnes, J., Greenspan, D.) To prohibit the imposition of driver's license and temporary instruction permit reinstatement fees in specified circumstances and to name this act the Reinstatement Fee Amnesty Initiative. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 250** **ELECTRIC BICYCLES** (Brinkman, T.) To establish requirements for the use of electric bicycles. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs (Committee Record) (Chr. Uecker, J., 466-8082), South Hearing Rm., 9:45 a.m.

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointment of Scott Arthur, State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire and Transportation Services

- HB 307** **MONTH DESIGNATION** (Gonzales, A.) To designate September as "We Card Month." (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 229** **DAY DESIGNATION** (Romanchuk, M., Wiggam, S.) To designate February 3 as "Charles Follis Day." (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 202** **AWARENESS DAY** (Thompson, A.) To designate the first Saturday of May as "Veterans Suicide Awareness Day." (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- SB 106** **SMOKING** (Tavares, C.) To prohibit smoking in a motor vehicle in which a child under six years of age is a passenger. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 194** **LICENSE PLATES** (Johnson, T., Craig, H.) To establish a program for the issuance of special license plates related to military service and awards. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

House Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3506), Rm. 119, 10 a.m.

House Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Schaffer, T., 466-8100), Rm. 121, 10 a.m.

SB 226 TAX HOLIDAY (Bacon, K.) To provide for a permanent three-day sales tax "holiday" each August during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use tax. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 22 TAX LAWS (Peterson, B.) To expressly incorporate changes in the Internal Revenue Code since February 14, 2016, into Ohio law. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments, substitute & vote)

HB 507 TAX CREDIT (Gonzales, A.) To allow a refundable income tax credit for parents of stillborn children. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 488 TAX LEVIES (Hood, R., Becker, J.) To modify the information conveyed in election notices and ballot language for property tax levies. (1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent)

Senate Judiciary (Committee Record) (Chr. Bacon, K., 466-8064), North Hearing Rm., 10:15 a.m.

- **Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of Mark Wasylshyn, Michael Staley, Brian Simms and Jay Beighley, Ohio Private Investigation and Security Services Commission**

SB 66 CRIMINAL LAWS (Eklund, J., Tavares, C.) To modify criminal sentencing and corrections law by including rehabilitation as a purpose of felony sentencing, removing the one-year minimum for presumptive fourth or fifth degree felony community control sanctions, modifying sanctions for a violation of a community control condition, modifying the manner of calculating confinement credits, modifying eligibility criteria and procedures for granting intervention in lieu of conviction, making offenders convicted of certain multiple fourth or fifth degree felonies eligible for conviction record sealing, revising procedures for the Adult Parole Authority to grant a final release or terminate post-release control, and modifying the criteria for considering a prison term sanction for a post-release control violation. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

SB 231 OFFENDER DATABASE (Gardner, R.) To provide for a violent offender database, require violent offenders to enroll in the database, and name those provisions of the act "Sierah's Law;" to modify the membership and duties of the Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition and eliminate its repeal; to require halfway houses to use the single validated risk assessment tool for adult offenders that the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction has developed; and to provide that the notice of release from prison of specified serious offense offenders that is given to sheriffs is to be the same as that provided to prosecuting attorneys and eliminate the notice to sheriffs regarding pardons, commutations, paroles, and transitional control transfers of offenders. (2nd Hearing-Possible amendments)

- SB 171** **PROTECTION ORDERS (Hottinger, J.)** To increase the penalty that applies to the offense of violating a protection order under certain circumstances and to require electronic monitoring of those convicted of violating certain protection orders to be carried out by probation agencies. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)
- SB 195** **DOGS LAW (Beagle, B.)** To revise provisions of the Dogs Law governing nuisance, dangerous, and vicious dogs, to revise enforcement of that Law, and to establish a notification process regarding complaints of certain violations of that Law. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)
- SB 244** **PROSTITUTION (Dolan, M., Manning, G.)** To amend the penalties for promoting prostitution. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- House Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Smith, R., 466-1366), Rm. 313, 11 a.m.
- HB 529** **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS (Ryan, S.)** To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Pending referral)
- HB 508** **OHIO CORPS (Ryan, S., Reineke, B.)** To establish the Ohio Corps Pilot Project and to make an appropriation. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 378** **BROADBAND GRANTS (Smith, R., Cera, J.)** To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)
- House Economic Development, Commerce & Labor (Committee Record) (Chr. Young, R., 644-6074), Rm. 113, 1:30 p.m.
- HB 504** **INTERIOR DESIGNERS (Pelanda, D.)** Regarding interior designers. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 263** **OUTDOOR DINING AREAS (Lanese, L.)** To generally allow an owner, keeper, or harbinger of a dog to take the dog in an outdoor dining area of a retail food establishment or food service operation. (6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- HB 211** **HOME INSPECTORS (Hughes, J.)** To require the licensure of home inspectors and to create the Ohio Home Inspector Board to regulate the licensure and performance of home inspectors. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- HB 433** **VETERINARY EDUCATION (Kelly, B., Brinkman, T.)** To allow a licensed veterinarian to receive up to two continuing education credits per biennium for performing free spaying and neutering services. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- House Criminal Justice (Committee Record) (Chr. Manning, N., 644-5076), Rm. 114, 1:30 p.m.
- HB 457** **DRUG TREATMENT (Antani, N.)** To require that an offender serving a community control sanction or a parolee who fails a drug test for heroin,

fentanyl, or carfentanil be held in jail or admitted to a residential treatment program for up to 30 days. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 391 **ECONOMIC LOSSES** (Merrin, D.) To include the cost of accounting done to determine the extent of economic loss as a type of economic loss for which restitution may be granted. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & substitute)

House State & Local Government (Committee Record) (Chr. Anielski, M., 644-6041), Rm. 017, 2 p.m.

HB 454 **CEMETERY LOTS** (Patterson, J., Arndt, S.) To require a township to compensate the owner of certain unused cemetery lots and rights which the township reenters after lack of response from the owner. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HR 299 **DRUG USE** (Young, R., Ginter, T.) To recognize the efforts and successes of the faith-based community in supporting and assisting individuals who are suffering from opioid and other drug abuse and addiction. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 483 **WEEK DESIGNATION** (Patterson, J.) To designate the second week of October as "Ohio Covered Bridge Week." (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

HB 484 **HEALTH DISTRICTS** (Brenner, A.) To authorize city and general health districts to use credit cards in accordance with prescribed requirements. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 492 **STATE PROCUREMENT** (Gonzales, A.) To establish the women-owned business enterprise program requiring state agencies to establish women-owned business procurement goals. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 493 **MINORITY ENTERPRISES** (Gonzales, A.) To authorize the Director of Administrative Services to enter into reciprocal agreements with other states with respect to the certification of minority business enterprises and EDGE business enterprises. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 500 **TOWNSHIP LAWS** (Carfagna, R.) To make various changes to township law. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Government Accountability & Oversight (Committee Record) (Chr. Blessing, L., 466-9091), Rm. 313, 2 p.m.

- Note time & room change.

HB 382 **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION** (Schuring, K.) To modify terms describing payments made under the Unemployment Compensation Law, to increase the amount of wages subject to unemployment compensation premiums, to require qualifying employees to make payments to the Unemployment Compensation Insurance Fund, to allow the Director of Job and Family Services to adjust maximum weekly benefit amounts, to reduce the maximum number of benefit weeks, and to make other changes to the Unemployment Compensation Law. (15th Hearing-All testimony)

- HJR 4** **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION** (Schuring, K.) Proposing to enact Section 2t of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to allow the General Assembly to provide by law for the issuance of bonds to pay unemployment compensation benefits when the fund created for that purpose is or will be depleted or to repay outstanding advances made by the federal government to the unemployment compensation program. (15th Hearing-All testimony)
- HB 512** **EDUCATION DEPARTMENT** (Reineke, B.) To establish the Department of Learning and Achievement; to abolish the Department of Higher Education, the position of the Chancellor of Higher Education, and the Ohio Board of Regents; to transfer, with exceptions, the duties regarding the administration of primary and secondary education programs and all duties regarding the administration of higher education programs to the Department of Learning and Achievement; and to prescribe certain duties regarding educator licensure, community school sponsorship, and other education programs for the State Board of Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Department of Education. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 451** **PUBLIC RECORDS** (Retherford, W.) To exclude from the definition of public record under the Public Records Law any depiction by photograph, film, videotape, or digital, visual, or printed material of victims of crime under specified circumstances dealing with the victims' bodily privacy. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- SB 223** **USED TIRES** (LaRose, F.) To prohibit the installation of unsafe used tires on certain motor vehicles. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- SB 10** **PRIMARY ELECTIONS** (LaRose, F.) To expand the circumstances under which a board of elections or the secretary of state is not required to hold a primary election. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)
- HB 506** **DOG BREEDERS** (Hill, B.) To revise the law governing high volume dog breeders. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)
- HB 469** **TAX CREDIT** (Schuring, K., Patton, T.) To authorize a nonrefundable insurance company tax credit for contributions of capital to transformational mixed use development projects. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 489** **FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS** (Dever, J.) To provide some regulatory and tax relief to state banks and credit unions, to provide for data analytics to be conducted on publicly available information regarding banks, credit unions, and consumer finance companies, to modify when a creditor can file a claim against an estate, to require registration of mortgage loan servicers, and to require a specified notice be given to a debtor for certain debt collection. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible amendments)
- SB 139** **LEGAL MATERIALS** (Skindell, M., Eklund, J.) To adopt the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 450 **HEALTH BENEFITS** (Antani, N.) To impose review and other requirements on existing health insurance mandated benefits and to establish requirements for the creation of new mandated benefits. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 342 **TAX LEVIES** (Merrin, D.) To permit local tax-related proposals to appear only on general and primary election ballots and not on an August special election ballot and to modify the information conveyed in election notices and ballot language for property tax levies. (4th Hearing-All testimony)

Senate Finance (Committee Record) (**Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626**), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 p.m.

- **Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of Pamela Mowry, North Central State College Board of Trustees and Jo Ann Davidson and Ranjan Manoranjan, Ohio Casino Control Commission**

SB 266 **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS** (Oelslager, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020. (Presentation from OBM Director Tim Keen)

HB 168 **CEMETERY REGISTRATION** (Stein, D.) To modify duties of the Division of Real Estate in the Department of Commerce regarding cemetery registration, to specify cemetery owners must reasonably maintain cemeteries, to establish the Cemetery Grant Program, and to make an appropriation. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 251 **SUBDIVISION INVESTMENTS** (Greenspan, D.) To increase from five to ten years the maturity period of other political subdivision's bonds and obligations eligible for investment of a subdivision's interim moneys, a county's inactive moneys, and money in the county public library fund. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid (Committee Record) (**Chr. Burke, D., 466-8049**), South Hearing Rm., 3:15 p.m.

SB 218 **MEDICAID PROVIDERS** (Lehner, P.) Regarding surety bonds and minimum training for certain Medicaid providers. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible amendments)

HB 332 **ANATOMICAL GIFTS** (Antani, N.) Regarding anatomical gifts, transplantation, and discrimination on the basis of disability. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 340 **PUBLIC ASSISTANCE** (Young, R.) Regarding the release of information concerning public and medical assistance recipients. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 233 **COTTAGE FOOD PRODUCTION** (Thomas, C.) To allow a cottage food production operator to use a firebrick oven located on a patio at the operator's residence for purposes of the cottage food production operation (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 111 **MENTAL HEALTH COMMITMENTS** (Carfagna, R., Ryan, S.) To authorize certain advanced practice registered nurses to have a person involuntarily

transported to a hospital for a mental health examination. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

House Education & Career Readiness (Committee Record) (Chr. Brenner, A., 644-6711), Rm. 121, 4 p.m.

- HB 502** **YOUTH SUICIDE (Anielski, M.)** With regard to educator inservice training on youth suicide awareness and prevention in public schools. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 503** **YOUTH SUICIDE (Anielski, M.)** With regard to educator inservice training on youth suicide awareness and prevention in private schools. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 318** **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (Patterson, J., LaTourette, S.)** To define the necessary qualifications and responsibilities of school resource officers. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute & vote)
- HB 428** **STUDENT EXPRESSION (Ginter, T., LaTourette, S.)** Regarding student religious expression and to entitle the act the "Ohio Student Religious Liberties Act of 2018." (3rd Hearing-Opponent)
- HB 491** **EDUCATION LICENSE (Edwards, J.)** To require the State Board of Education to issue a substitute license to specified pupil services personnel. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)
- HB 360** **BULLYING (Greenspan, D.)** To enact the "Ohio Anti-Bullying and Hazing Act" with regard to school discipline and bullying and hazing policies at public schools and public colleges. (4th Hearing-Possible substitute)

Senate Government Oversight & Reform (Committee Record) (Chr. Coley, B., 466-8072), Finance Hearing Rm., 4 p.m.

- SR 342** **COLUMBUS CREW (Kunze, S.)** To urge the investor-operator and chairperson of Columbus Crew Soccer Club to keep the franchise in Columbus. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- SB 221** **AGENCY RULEMAKING (Uecker, J.)** To reform agency rule-making and legislative review thereof. (3rd Hearing-Opponent-Possible amendments)
- HB 226** **FIREWORKS (Seitz, B., Sweeney, M.)** To establish a fireworks study group to review and make recommendations regarding the Fireworks Law, to extend to July 1, 2020, the moratorium on issuing fireworks manufacturer and wholesaler licenses, to eliminate, beginning January 1, 2021, the moratorium on geographic transfer of fireworks manufacturer and wholesaler licenses, and, beginning July 1, 2020, to impose a fee on the retail sale of consumer grade fireworks in this state and to expand the ability of individuals to obtain 1.3G display fireworks and obtain and use 1.4G consumer fireworks. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- SB 239** **REGIONAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS (Dolan, M.)** To modify the law concerning regional councils of governments. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

Agency Calendar

Board of Building Appeals, Division of Industrial Compliance, 6606 Tussing Road,
Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 8:30 a.m.

Event Planner

State Auditor Dave Yost and GOP lawmakers news conference on Medicaid compliance, Press Briefing Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Ohio Lobbying Association Annual Meeting & Legislative Reception, Sheraton Columbus at Capital Square, 75 E. State St., Columbus, 4 p.m., (4:00 pm - Annual Meeting for OLA Members; 5:00 pm - Legislative Reception. More info and to register: http://bit.ly/2018_OLA_AM)

Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) fundraiser, Westies Gastropub, 940 S. Front Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$250 to Committee to Elect Glenn Holmes. RSVP with Jenna Gravalis at 551-427-9895 or jgravalis@ohiodems.org)

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Senate Activity for Monday, February 26, 2018

INTRODUCED

SB 266 ■ **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS (Oelslager, S.)** To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020.

Gongwer Coverage

SB 267 ■ **SOLICITING (Brown, E., Kunze, S.)** To increase the penalty for soliciting when the person solicited is eighteen years of age or older, to specify that the fine for soliciting in this circumstance is not more than two thousand five hundred dollars, and to specify that up to one thousand dollars of that fine may be deposited into the Victims of Human Trafficking Fund. Am. 2907.24 and 5101.87

SENATE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS

Joint Education Oversight Committee: Senator Gayle Manning as chair .

DELIVERED TO THE GOVERNOR

SB 144 ■ **DISABILITIES COUNCIL (Burke, D.)** To abolish the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Commission, Consumer Advisory Committee, and Governor's Council on People with Disabilities; to establish a state rehabilitation services council known as the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council; and to restore staggered terms of office for the employee members representing firefighters on the board of trustees of the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund.

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House Activity for Monday, February 26, 2018

INTRODUCED

HB 526 ■ **SCHOOL SAFETY** (DeVitis, T., Sweeney, M.) To authorize a public or chartered nonpublic school to enter into an agreement with a volunteer law enforcement officer to patrol school premises to prevent or respond to a mass casualty event, to provide the parties with a qualified immunity from civil liability, and to provide a tax credit for volunteer service. Am. 5747.08 and 5747.98 and to enact sections 3313.94 and 5747.64

HB 527 ■ **VISITATION RIGHTS** (LaTourette, S.) To allow certain specified persons to petition the probate court for reasonable visitation with an incompetent or ward if visitation between the person and the incompetent or ward has been interfered with or denied. Am. 2111.132

HB 528 ■ **CORPSE ABUSE** (Smith, R., Rezabek, J.) To expand the penalties for abuse of corpse offenses. Am. 2927.01 and 2929.13

HB 529 ■ **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS** (Ryan, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020. Am. 164.05
Gongwer Coverage

HOUSE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENTS

Insurance Committee: Remove Representative LaTourette; appoint Representative Lang.

DELIVERED TO THE GOVERNOR

HB 45 ■ **MONTH DESIGNATION** (Sprague, R.) To designate May as "Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month."

HB 79 ■ **FIREARMS TRAINING** (Retherford, W., Hagan, C.) To provide for firearms training for tactical medical professionals; to permit such a professional who has received that training and has been authorized by the law enforcement

agency to carry firearms while on duty; and to grant such a professional the same right to carry a concealed handgun in this state as a concealed handgun licensee.

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Volume #87, Report #38 -- Monday, February 26, 2018

\$2.62 Billion Capital Budget Prioritizes Projects To Address Opiate Addiction, Related Issues

The General Assembly is doubling its prior financial commitments for behavioral and mental health infrastructure in the capital appropriations budget that was introduced Monday.

The bill includes \$2.62 billion in new spending on bricks-and-mortar projects as well as a yet-to-be-disclosed amount of reappropriations for ongoing capital projects approved in prior biennia. The bill covers spending in Fiscal Years 2019-2020.

Companion House and Senate measures (HB 529 & SB 266) allocate \$222 million for health and human services, developmental disabilities, mental health, addiction treatment and women's health initiative facilities over the next two fiscal years.

The fast-tracked budget, which will receive first hearings in both chambers on Tuesday, also includes \$150 million in community projects - \$20 million more than the original funding target - \$600 million for school facilities, \$514 million for local infrastructure projects and \$483 million for public colleges and universities.

The state will issue bonds to fund the spending.

The expanded health and human services support funding was added in response to the growing impact of the opiate epidemic, Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said.

"So where in the prior budgets you may have seen a few of these pop up, I think it's on the minds of a lot of people and we all recognize that these are some of the more important issues facing the state of Ohio and these are some of the things we chose to prioritize."

Some of the projects set to receive a chunk of the \$222 million are Alvis House and Maryhaven in Columbus, President Obhof said. The respective \$300,000 and \$125,000 projects would add about 260 additional treatment beds for addicts in Franklin County.

"We see these things throughout the state and not just in Franklin County, in Cuyahoga and Hamilton counties but in some of rural areas as well," Sen. Obhof said. "There are number of requests that are being funded from members throughout the state of Ohio for things like that."

Of the total allocation for such infrastructure plans, \$20 million will be provided through competitive grants, which were proposed by Gov. John Kasich. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 12, 2018)

So-called community resiliency projects that focus on expanding spaces for youth programming would receive the funding, said Senate Finance Committee Chairman Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton). The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and local groups will likely select the recipients.

"We recognize the need there and listened very carefully to the community," he said of the funding dedicated to combatting the opiate epidemic and related issues.

While that area of the budget saw a boost, overall capital appropriations shrunk by about \$10 million from the last budget, Sen. Obhof said. He's hopeful, however, that it will have a similar reach.

"We think that due to sound fiscal management and the hard work we put in in the main operating budget last year, we do have the capacity for the bonding and the funding of various projects throughout the state that you see in the bill," he told reporters after the legislation was introduced.

Leaders of both parties in each chamber worked together to iron out the details prior to the measure's introduction Monday, making it ripe for quick passage.

President Obhof said he expects a Senate vote on the House version - which will serve as the vehicle for the budget - in the week before spring break, which is set to begin in late March.

Local projects were brought forward by individual members for consideration while community colleges and universities created their own priority funding packages. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, November 22, 2017)

"This capital budget will give the legislature a tremendous opportunity to address several infrastructure and construction projects that will generate a positive return on investment for communities all across the state," Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) said in a statement. "I want to commend the members of the legislature and local leaders for their collaboration and commitment to helping improve the lives of so many Ohioans through this legislation."

The capital budget has historically drawn bipartisan support as lawmakers look to support money funneled to projects in their communities. That trend is expected to continue this year.

"As legislators, we review capital budget applications, meet with individuals and organizations and visit project sites. You can't help but become passionate about what we can do to invest in Ohio's infrastructure and improve the community," Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Heights) said. "Although it's unfortunate that we can't fund every much-needed community project that comes to our attention, I am happy with the progress that will be made through the capital budget."

If the capital bill process follows those of prior years, no major changes will occur during deliberations unless there are problems with the bill. The last several capital budgets passed with few if any amendments once they were introduced.

Cardinal Health Among Drug Distributors Targeted In Latest DeWine Opioid Suit

Attorney General Mike DeWine on Monday announced that he has filed a lawsuit against four drug distributors for their role in the opioid epidemic.

The lawsuit, filed in Madison County Common Pleas Court, alleges that the drug distributors were negligent in over-supplying addictive opioid prescription drugs.

"We believe the evidence will show that these companies ignored their duties as drug distributors to ensure that opioids were not being diverted for improper use. They knew the amount of opioids allowed to flow into Ohio far exceeded what could be consumed for medically-necessary purposes, but they did nothing to stop it," AG Mike DeWine said in a statement.

"And much like the drug manufacturers who continue to fail to do the right thing, these distributors are doing precious little to take responsibility for their actions and help pay for the damage they have caused."

Named in the lawsuit are McKesson Corporation, Cardinal Health and its subsidiaries, AmerisourceBergen Drug Corporation and Miami-Luken, Inc.

Cardinal Health in a statement said it has been cooperating to "alleviate the public health crisis and save lives" through a multi-state effort led by 40 attorneys general and a multi-jurisdictional effort in Cleveland.

"We are extremely disappointed that Attorney General DeWine chose to go outside of these established processes at this critical moment in time to file this unfounded lawsuit," the company said in a statement.

The company went on to say that it cares deeply about the opioid epidemic and that there must be work toward meaningful solutions.

"This is why we launched our Opioid Action Program which augments our substantial efforts to combat opioid abuse and is providing funds and support for take back efforts, Narcan giveaways for first responders, and grants for communities looking to find holistic solutions to this public health issue throughout Ohio," it said.

"Cardinal Health has made a significant investment in state-of-the-art controls to effectively combat the diversion of pain medications from legitimate uses. We believe this kind of effort and investment, and not baseless litigation, is the way to alleviate this problem."

The lawsuit alleges that the companies fueled the opioid epidemic by distributing enough of the drugs to fill more than 11.8 million prescriptions from 2011 to 2016, amounting to dosages that averaged more than 739 million each year.

The drug epidemic has resulted in annual damages in excess of \$1 billion, the lawsuit alleges. Those costs include medical care; treatment for infants born with opioid-related medical conditions; public safety measures; substance abuse prevention; and welfare and social services for the children of addicted parents.

The lawsuit also alleges that more than 7,000 Ohioans have died due to the opioid crisis.

The companies "have supplied and continue to supply quantities of prescription opioids in and around Ohio without taking proper measures based on their actual or constructive knowledge that individuals were consuming opioids for non-medical purposes," the lawsuit reads.

Among the remedies Mr. DeWine is seeking are punitive and compensatory damages.

This marks the second lawsuit the AG has filed against drug companies over the opioid crisis. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 31, 2017)

Nearly \$29M In State IT Funding Clears Controlling Board

Controlling Board members Monday approved more funding for state information technology projects after raising questions about performance-based contracts and the state's savings from consolidating services.

The requests from the Department of Administrative Services included one worth nearly \$24.8 million for the state's main IT services delivery line item, which has increased over the years due to the consolidation, DAS Chief Financial Officer Jennifer Leymaster told the board.

The other request, for \$4.4 million, dealt specifically with a pair of projects involving nine agencies, she said.

Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) asked if the state's IT contracts have performance clauses for the timing of delivery or for the accountability of functions.

The request Monday didn't deal with specific contracts, just the appropriation changes needed to cover contract costs, Ms. Leymaster said.

"We'd be happy to see if individual contracts have the type of controls that you're asking about," she said.

Ms. Leymaster told Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) that the projects are part of a broader optimization project that has saved the state more than \$160 million since its inception.

The board also approved two significant funding requests from the Development Services Agency to support affordable housing after Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) asked about cost containment measures and access for people with disabilities.

The requests included \$13.6 million for the Ohio Housing Finance Agency to administer the Housing Development Assistance Program, and \$5.5 million for housing assistance programs across the state.

Kelan Craig, director of planning, preservation and development at the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, said the administration has worked to ensure projects are done effectively at low cost.

As for accessibility for people with disabilities, there are specific requirements for projects targeted at seniors and for permanent supportive housing developments, but not for standard affordable housing, he said.

"Let's just watch that and make sure we don't have a problem with that," Sen. Coley said.

A request by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for \$1.1 million to replace the emergency generator at Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare in Athens was approved after Sen. Coley asked about the hospital's involvement in plans to participate in peak demand emergency programs.

Stephen Wilson, legislative liaison for ODMHAS, said the state found it would only save a couple thousand dollars to participate in the utility's peak demand program, while placing strict requirements on hospital staff.

Sen. Coley said the programs can help other facilities, such as industries and schools, when the power goes down.

"Hospitals around the state are finding great benefits to these programs," he said.

In total, the board approved 82 requests for funding.

Other items approved included: (Agenda)

- \$2.9 million - Central State University - for repair and modernization of the Hallie Q. Brown Memorial Library.
- \$11.7 million - Cleveland State University - to contract for an addition project at Fenn Hall.

- \$1.9 million - Cuyahoga Community College - to buy 12.82 acres of real estate in Euclid for the expansion of the Transportation, Distribution and Logistics Academy.
- \$1 million - Adjutant General's Department - for masonry renovation and HVAC work at the Hamilton Readiness Center in Butler County.
- \$4.6 million - DAS - for administration of the Multi-Agency Radio Communication System.
- \$2.3 million - Department of Agriculture - for lab supplies and equipment.
- \$1.1 million - Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services - for emergency generator replacement at Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare in Athens.
- \$1.6 million - Bureau of Motor Vehicles - for federal grants to purchase and install document scanners and update existing computer systems to confirm commercial driver's license applicants provided proof of citizenship or permanent residency.
- \$10.5 million - Facilities Construction Commission - for master facilities plan amendments from Elida Local School District and Bloom-Carroll Local School District.

Adult Charge Stemming From Juvenile Conviction Challenged At High Court

Can a juvenile adjudication be used to satisfy an element of a crime committed as an adult?

Anthony Carnes will argue that it can't in a case the Ohio Supreme Court is set to hear Tuesday.

Mr. Carnes was charged with a third-degree felony offense of weapon-under-disability based on a 1994 juvenile adjudication. He moved to have the charge dismissed, but the trial court denied his motion.

The First District Court of Appeals upheld the trial court's decision. But Mr. Carnes argued that both court erred in their decisions.

"Simply put, juvenile adjudications are not criminal convictions and should not be viewed as such. This conclusion is reinforced by the fact that Ohio's juvenile system uses two different approaches, one mandatory and one discretionary, to transfer its most severe offenders into the adult system, and has a process to include an adult sentence with a juvenile rehabilitation for the next most serious level of offenders," his merit brief reads.

"In line with that approach, this court has prohibited juvenile adjudications from increasing punishment for subsequent adult conduct. Given that framework, it is incongruous for such adjudications to be permitted to turn what would otherwise be lawful conduct into a crime. Thus, a juvenile adjudication should not be deemed to meet an element of an offense charged against an adult."

The Juvenile Law Center and the Buckeye Firearms Association both weighed in on the case on behalf of Mr. Carnes.

"Individuals with Ohio juvenile adjudications do not fit into the long standing prohibition on the possession of firearms by felons because they simply are not felons by definition," the BFA wrote in its amicus brief.

The state, however, argues that a juvenile adjudication cannot be used to enhance a penalty, but it can be used as an element of a crime. The state also contends that if the court were to side with Mr. Carnes it would gut the state's law prohibiting the possession of a weapon under disability.

Under the law, "there are multiple means of being placed under a disability that do not include the right to a jury trial: being a fugitive from justice, being under indictment for a felony offense of violence, being under indictment for a felony drug offense, being drug dependent or in danger of drug dependence, being a chronic alcoholic, and being adjudicated mentally incompetent. Just as is the case with a juvenile adjudication, none of those situations carries a right to a jury trial - state," the state writes.

The Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office has also asked the court to affirm the First District ruling.

"Persons who commit violent felony offenses are considered bad risks who should not be allowed to legally possess a firearm. The fact that a person who commits the violent felony offense as a juvenile does not make that person any less of a bad risk," it wrote in an amicus brief.

"But Ohio's weapons disability law recognizes that people can turn their lives around and become law-abiding citizens after committing a single indiscretion or even after committing a series of crimes decades ago. That person can legally possess a firearm after following the appropriate statutory remedy; but until that time, the person should not be able to possess a firearm under Ohio law."

Three district court judges will be involved in the case because Justice Sharron Kennedy, Justice Patrick Fischer and Justice Patrick DeWine have recused themselves.

Justice DeWine concurred in judgement only with the First District's opinion upholding the trial court's decision to deny the motion to dismiss the charge.

The high court is set to hear two other cases Tuesday, it reported:

- In *Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation v. Cirino*, it will hear a case involving a Bureau of Workers' compensation beneficiary challenging the electronic payment program because he is charged fees by his bank. The state argues the case must be filed in the Court of Claims.
- A Columbus attorney is facing a six-month stayed suspension for failure to keep and maintain required financial records in the case of *Columbus Bar Association v. Keating*.

Ohio Groups Debate Trump's Short-Term Health Plan Proposal

A Trump administration proposal to expand options for short-term health insurance is designed to give consumers more options in the marketplace without the regulatory burden of current plans.

Opponents say it could lead to more limited coverage and raise premiums for people on standard exchange plans.

The proposal by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, announced last week, would allow short-term, limited-duration health insurance plans to provide coverage for up to 12 months, up from the current maximum of three months.

These plans are not required to meet the federal requirements for individual health insurance, such as providing essential health benefits or coverage for people with pre-existing conditions.

"In a market that is experiencing double-digit rate increases, allowing short-term, limited-duration insurance to cover longer periods gives Americans options and could be the difference between someone getting coverage or going without coverage at all," CMS Administrator Seema Verma said in a statement.

In Ohio, the move will provide more competition in the marketplace for health insurance, said Greg Lawson, research fellow at the Buckeye Institute.

"It's not going to be a perfect fit for everybody, but for those individuals that it works for, this could be something that could work for you, and it would be a cheaper alternative than being forced into the exchange," he said in an interview.

Critics say the change will erode coverage for people who sign up for the short-term plans and drive up premiums for those who need the more comprehensive coverage of Affordable Care Act-compliant plans.

"These short-term plans are likely to be harmful in the long run," said Steven Wagner, executive director of UHCAN Ohio. "Since they may lack meaningful coverage, people may find that their health care costs are not covered or face substantial out of pocket costs. These plans are a step in the wrong direction."

A report by the Urban Institute estimated the change would lead to an increase of 2.5 million people without minimum essential health care coverage by 2019, and an increase of 18.2% in 2019 premiums for ACA-compliant nongroup insurance plans.

The changes would allow people to shop around for the coverage they want, Mr. Lawson said. The Buckeye Institute and others have criticized the ACA exchanges for placing burdensome regulations on insurers and raising premiums.

"In general, what this will allow is you can have more barebones type policies that are more affordable," he said. "I don't think this is necessarily the pathway that we would prefer to see on a permanent basis but given the fact that the affordable care act is still the law of the land, this does give some breathing space."

Mr. Wagner said those requirements ensure people have comprehensive insurance coverage. He called the latest change part of an effort to eliminate coverage requirements created under the ACA.

"The Trump Administration is eating away at the foundations of health care coverage like termites in the foundation," he said. "This change along w the ability to alter the essential health benefits weakens people's access to quality affordable health care."

Travel Trailer Maker Tops List Of Tax Credits Issued By State Panel

The Tax Credit Authority on Monday approved incentives for four projects that promise to create a total of 475 jobs and retain another 1,405 positions, the Development Services Agency reported.

The \$2.81 million in tax credits, an estimate that depends on the companies meeting their hiring goals and other criteria, are projected to help trigger \$41 million in investments and result in more than \$24 million in new payroll, according to the state.

Topping the list in terms of impacted jobs and tax credit value is the \$2.325 million incentive for **Airstream, Inc.** in the Village of Jackson Center in Shelby County.

The designer and manufacturer of travel trailers and touring coaches expects to create 280 full-time positions generating \$14.8 million in new payroll while retaining \$57.2 million in payroll with its expansion project. The TCA approved a 1.874%, nine-year Job Creation Tax Credit for the plans.

The other approved projects (estimated tax credit values) are:

Sedgwick Claims Management Services, Inc. of Hilliard (Franklin Co.). The provider of claims, productivity, managed care, risk consulting and other services expects to create 109 full-time positions generating \$4.3 million in new payroll while retaining \$13.4 million in payroll. The expansion plans attracted a tax credit of 1.31% over seven years (\$400,000).

Veeva Systems Inc. of Dublin (Franklin Co.) plans 46 new jobs, \$3.5 million in new payroll and the retention of \$2.1 million in payroll with its expansion. TCA awarded a 1.62%, seven-year tax credit for the project (\$355,000).

Modular Assembly Innovations LLC of Allen Township (Union Co.), which plans 40 new jobs, \$1.4 million in new payroll and the retention of \$7.6 million in payroll. The provider of manufacturing and modular assembly services to the automotive industry was awarded a 1.055%, six-year JCTC (\$90,000).

Kasich Declares Emergency As Flood Risks Continue

Two days after Gov. John Kasich declared a state of emergency in 17 counties, areas of Ohio are continuing to grapple with flooding.

On Saturday, the governor issued his emergency declaration in the face of flooding - particularly along the Ohio River, which was expected to crest Monday.

Although rains have stopped, flood waters linger in some areas, closing roads and posing ongoing safety risks. The National Weather Service has said flood warnings are expected to persist for several more days in the central U.S. as "numerous river systems will remain in flood stage this week."

"As the weather and flooding is expected to get worse we're staying ahead of things by taking our readiness up to the next level and declaring an emergency where we expect the worst conditions," Gov. Kasich said over the weekend. "We'll quickly add to those areas as it's needed."

Counties affected by the proclamation include: Adams, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Clermont, Columbiana, Gallia, Hamilton, Hocking, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Monroe, Meigs, Muskingum, Scioto and Washington.

The state's Emergency Operations Center had been preparing for this round of flooding since at least Feb. 18. That's the day the Ohio EMA Watch Office began providing regular awareness reports multiple times a day to state, local and federal agencies.

In recent days meals have been provided to the elderly by the Department of Aging, emergency management liaisons have been dispatched to assist county-level operations centers, and swift water rescue teams have been positioned.

"Ohioans do a good job of looking out for each other and we're doing it again now also," Gov. Kasich said. "Teams at the local level are hard at work and state teams have been coordinating with them and supporting them over the past week."

Following the Kasich order, the EMA transitioned from assessment and monitoring to partial activation and the state's Joint Information Center was opened. That followed Ohio National Guard deployments to help install flood gates and a flood wall in Scioto County.

In recent days, state entities have assisted in providing sand bags and a water pump to communities in Lawrence County. A major rockslide on Monday closed a portion of a highway in that county, according to the Ohio Department of Transportation. State geologists were on the scene.

"I urge people to stay safe by staying informed, not taking any chances and checking in on your neighbors, especially seniors and families with young kids," the governor said. "Call your local city, county or Red Cross if there's anyone who needs help. We'll get through this as we always do, by working together."

At the same time, Attorney General Mike DeWine has issued several tips to steer residents away from flood-related scams that may arise.

"As people across Ohio assess the damage and start the clean-up process, we're reminding consumers to beware of scams," Mr. DeWine said. "Some con artists travel to affected communities to take advantage of people. They offer to help, but once they get your money, they're gone. After the flooding, we also could start to see flood-damaged vehicles entering the market. We just warn people to be careful."

Cyberattack Temporarily Shuts Down State Websites, Phones

The Department of Administrative Services is making modifications after a cyberattack blocked state websites and phone systems for multiple hours Sunday evening.

DAS spokesman Tom Hoyt said the attack was launched shortly after 5:30 p.m. Sunday and "was addressed quickly and remediated at approximately 9:50 p.m."

"It was not a breach - no personal information was compromised," Mr. Hoyt said.

Several accounts seemingly affiliated with the so-called "hacktivist" group Anonymous appear to be taking credit for the attack on social media. Anonymous-linked users posted screenshots showing error pages that appeared when trying to access state websites.

The attack was a denial-of-service attack, which is a concerted effort in which users bombard a targeted system with requests, thereby overloading and disabling it for legitimate users.

"The attack itself was educational in the sense that we now know how this type of attack is done and we can put in filters and prepare to help us be ready if it happens again," Mr. Hoyt said. This is the first time DAS has grappled with this specific method of a denial-of-service attack.

"These types of attacks can be done in different ways so we're aware of them and prepare for them," Mr. Hoyt said. "This was conducted in a different way, but once you go through that, you learn how it's done and we can prepare for the next time."

It's not the first time the state has been faced with a cyberattack.

Nearly a dozen state websites were impacted last year after hackers posted pro-ISIS messages on state homepages. That "internet graffiti-style" attack, however, was believed to be surface-level in nature with hackers not accessing the state's servers. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 26, 2017)

Environmental Group Calls For Setback, Chemical Reporting Changes Following Well Fire

The Ohio Environmental Council is pointing to a Feb. 15 explosion and fire at a Belmont County oil well as new evidence pointing to the need for increased well setbacks.

But a leading oil and gas group is accusing the council of seeking to block industry development with its latest call for new legislation.

A horizontal well operated by XTO caught fire earlier this month, causing explosions and leading to the evacuation of residents within a one mile perimeter as the well continued to leak methane and other gasses.

XTO has said it has contracted with various companies to monitor the area and oversee cleanup operations. It has also paid to house 100 households who were displaced. Those residing beyond a half mile from the site have since been moved back into their homes.

The OEC said the incident is a "wake up call" demonstrating a need to strengthen Ohio's current law requiring horizontal wells to be located at least 100 feet from rural homes.

"What this incident demonstrates is that Ohio's current setback laws for horizontal oil and gas wells are clearly insufficient and do very little to protect communities from this new wave of oil and gas development," said Melanie Houston, director of climate programs at the Ohio Environmental Council. "Given the frequency of horizontal well pad incidents in Ohio over the past five years, it is past time for Ohio lawmakers to reconsider a safer setback distance."

The group said the incident also shows the need to examine laws requiring well operators to disclose hazardous chemicals to emergency responders. That debate was a point of contention during budget talks last year. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 14, 2017)

"State lawmakers also must close the chemical reporting loophole in Ohio law to make sure that first responders such as those responding to last week's incident can get the full accounting of chemical identities during oil and gas emergencies," Ms. Houston said.

The Ohio Oil and Gas Association, however, said 2012 legislation in that arena "created one of the most stringent regulatory programs for chemical disclosure in the nation."

That bill (SB315, 129th General Assembly) was a far-reaching energy mid-biennium review measure that strengthened requirements. But Democrats and environmental groups at the time said it didn't go far enough with its chemical disclosure provisions. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 24, 2012)

"The bill required chemical disclosure to all first responders, providing access to the information that they need and allowed (the Ohio Department of Natural Resources) to ask for additional chemical information when there is an incident," said Matt Hammond, OOGA's senior vice president.

As far as the idea of increased setbacks, the organization accused OEC and its allies of attempting to use a setback increase to snuff out oil and gas development.

"We have all heard the calls for increased setback distances since 2003 and found that environmental groups have supported setback distances for the sole purpose to offend the property rights of landowners and effectively block oil and gas development," Mr. Hammond said.

Schiavoni, Williams Plan Firearm Removal Bill; Yost Unveils School Safety Plan; High Court Hears Janus Case; Kucinich Continues Gun Push...

Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) and Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) on Monday announced their intention to introduce a bill allowing for the removal of firearms from people deemed to be an imminent danger to themselves or others.

The proposal would establish an Extreme Risk Protection Order that would allow family or law enforcement to ask a court to temporarily remove firearms for up to one year.

"Family members are often the first to know when a loved one starts showing signs that they're dangerous to themselves or people around them," Sen. Schiavoni, a Democratic gubernatorial candidate, said in a statement. "Sadly, there aren't many options available to be proactive, remove weapons and prevent those moments from becoming tragedies. This bill is common sense. It provides a clear process when loved ones notice those red flags."

Five other states have similar laws. In announcing the intention to introduce the measure, the lawmakers cited Gov. John Kasich, who in a recent television interview expressed support for ERPOs.

"I am pleased to see the conversation turn and the mood shift toward sensible gun safety measures in Ohio," Sen. Williams said. "I'm also pleased to see Gov. Kasich supporting efforts to combat gun violence. We know how to reduce gun violence in America while still respecting the Second Amendment. This bill is a step forward in that direction."

School Safety: State Auditor Dave Yost on Monday rolled out a three-point school safety plan centered on securing buildings.

The attorney general hopeful's plan calls for a statewide inventory of security measures at all 5,200 school buildings across the state and a bond-backed program to modify them to create a single point of entry, install electronic zoned locking systems and add video cameras.

The final piece of the plan calls for the establishment of a training program for school staff volunteers with prior military or law enforcement experience.

"We need to protect our kids at school at least as well as we protect our politicians at work," Auditor Yost said in a statement. "This program takes the same proven tactics and technology we use in government offices-and many private businesses-and puts them to work in our schools, where our greatest treasures are."

Janus Case: A day ahead of the U.S. Supreme Court hearing oral arguments in a case that could have far-reaching implications for public sector unions, hundreds gathered on the Statehouse lawn for the "Working People's Day of Action."

The event also comes in the wake of six pieces of legislation introduced in Ohio to revise collective bargaining laws.

"The Ohio Legislative Black Caucus stands in solidarity with labor and working people," Ohio Legislative Black Caucus President and Rep. Stephanie Howse (D-Cleveland) said in a statement. "Right to Work is wrong and has no place in the state of Ohio. Fair labor practices, equitable pay, representation in the workplace and building power through unity are essential to making Ohio stronger, and should be a guaranteed right to all who are willing to work."

Buckeye Institute President Robert Alt said the questioning by Justice Anthony Kennedy during oral arguments should leave union supporters concerned.

"Given how frequently Justice Kennedy is in the majority, his questions have to be a cause of concern for those seeking to continue the practice of forcing public servants to pay for union speech with which they may disagree," he said.

Gun Control: The gubernatorial campaign of Dennis Kucinich continues to put gun control in the spotlight.

In the latest move, Mr. Kucinich's running mate, Akron City Councilwoman Tara Samples, plans to introduce a measure to urge state lawmakers to pass a ban on assault weapons.

"Dennis and I, with the help of more than 2,000 grassroots volunteers, are working to convince every city council and every board of education all across Ohio to support getting these killing machines off our streets," she said in a statement. "I couldn't be more proud that my own community is about to become the first in Ohio to take this step."

New Polling: A Suffolk University/*USA Today* poll released Monday found strong support for additional gun restrictions, including 63% of respondents who want semi-automatic weapons banned.

Another 76% said that people treated for mental illness should be banned from owning firearms and 61% said stronger gun control law and background checks could prevent more mass shootings.

The poll also found that 62% believe schools should be required to have metal detectors and 58% believe there should be a requirement that schools have a armed police officer stationed on campus.

However, just 19% believe the prospects of Congress passing gun-control measures are good to excellent and 25% believe there is a fair chance for legislative action. Another 51% said the chances are poor.

"Voters see a Congress that is deaf to their wishes about remedying gun violence in the United States," said David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center in Boston

The nationwide survey of 1,000 individuals, which has a margin of error of 3%, also found that President Donald Trump's approval rating stands at 38%, down from 47% one year ago.

"President Trump's job performance ratings have had several ups and downs in the past year, with last March's relatively strong showing coming in the aftermath of a well-received speech to Congress," Mr. Paleologos said. "The bump he got after signing the tax bill in December appears to have been overwhelmed in light of young people challenging him on gun issues and the investigation of Russian meddling in U.S elections."

ODP Training: The Ohio Democratic Party announced Monday that more than 110 candidates took part in its "Main Street Initiative," which provides training and support to candidates.

"What Democrats are seeing nationally, we're seeing here in Ohio, too - the unprecedented energy and enthusiasm of the grassroots is turning into record numbers of Democratic candidates running in races up and down the ballot," ODP Chairman David Pepper said in a statement. "We're proud to support our state and local candidates when they run for office, as we build our bench of great public servants. We look forward to working with our 2018 'Main Street' candidates from now through Election Day and then touting their successes once they're in office."

Governor's Appointments

State Auctioneers Commission: Theresa M. Blocher of Paris for a term beginning February 26, 2018, and ending October 9, 2020.

Board of Nursing: Lauralee S. Krabill of Sandusky and Patricia A. Sharpnack of Chardon for terms beginning February 26, 2018, and ending December 31, 2021

Supplemental Event Planner

Monday, March 5

One Ohio Now news conference on state data ahead of the State of the State Address, Ladies Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, March 7

Rep. Martin J. Sweeney (D-Cleveland) fundraiser, Dempsey's, 346 S. High St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Marty, We Love You; \$1,000-\$5,000; Best Buddy; \$500; Good Pal; \$100 Friend: \$25 to Friends of Martin J. Sweeney)

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Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 11:17 AM

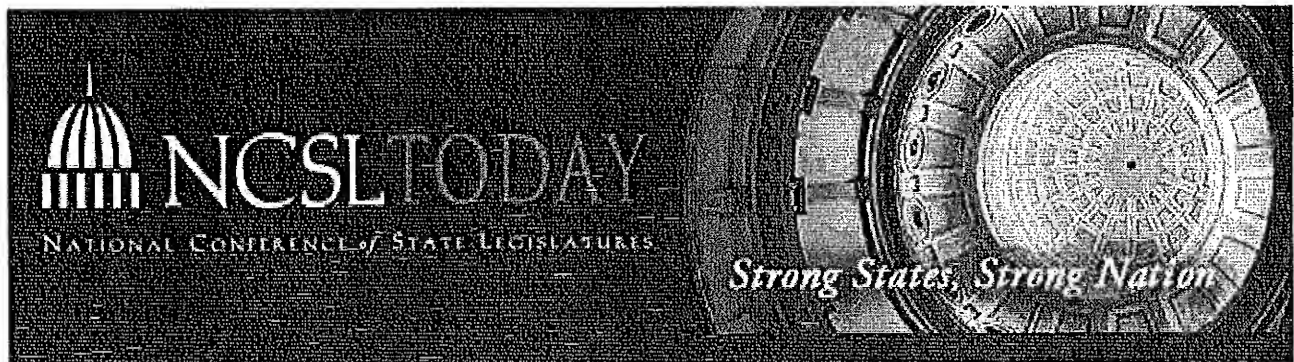
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TOP NEWS Feb. 27, 2018

What states are doing about gun laws in wake of Florida shooting

The New York Times

It is not just in Florida, where the mass shooting at a high school is prompting lawmakers to take up gun control legislation. The same thing is happening across the country, from Washington to Vermont.

[NCSL Blog post on carrying firearms in K-12 schools.](#)

Supreme Court to hear online tax case April 17

Bloomberg

The U.S. Supreme Court will soon hear a long-simmering challenge about states' taxing authority over online retailers. And states should have the high-court's answer by the start of summer. **NCSL brief cited.**

[NCSL resources on remote sales tax collection.](#)

What the Supreme Court's ruling means for DACA and 'Dreamers'

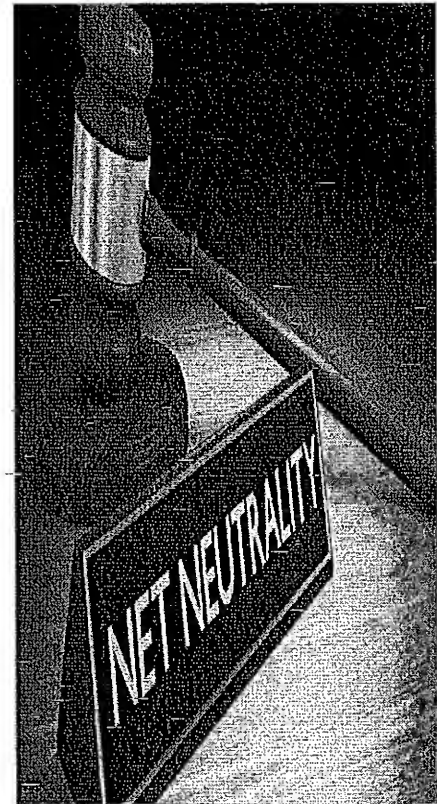
USA TODAY

By refusing to hear a California case, the high court ensured that DACA will survive at least through the fall, giving DACA enrollees a temporary reprieve from deportation and Congress more time to craft a permanent solution for them.

[NCSL resources on DACA.](#)

Iowa lawmakers move to allow health plans that skirt Obamacare rules

The Des Moines Register



Net neutrality legislation in the states

Net neutrality legislation has been introduced in over half of the states, largely in response to the Federal Communications Commission Restoring Internet Freedom Order.



2018 legislative races by state and chamber

The Iowa Farm Bureau Federation could offer health insurance plans that don't comply with the federal Affordable Care Act under legislation advancing in the Iowa Legislature.

New Jersey lawmakers: Let inmates vote from prison

NJ.com

State lawmakers on Monday announced legislation that would return voting rights to nearly 100,000 people locked up in prison or serving parole or probation.

[NCSL resources on felon voting rights.](#)

Feds provide Connecticut schools money for new students from Puerto Rico

CT Mirror

Connecticut schools scrambled to accommodate the new arrivals — most of them non-English speakers — without additional resources from a cash-strapped state government.

Webinar March 9: Fiscal 50 - How does your state rank?

Price of democracy: Splitting the bill for elections



Gorsuch silent during SCOTUS union dues oral argument

If there ever was a case where the vote of only one Justice is likely to matter it is *Janus v. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees*. All attention was focused on Justice Neal Gorsuch this morning as the Supreme Court held oral argument in this case. And he was...silent.



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7700 East First Place, Denver, CO 80230

From: report@hannah.com
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 10:49 PM
To: DL_Hannah
Subject: Hannah News Stories for Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

IN TODAY'S HANNAH REPORT:

Please click here to read the entire Hannah Report.

Today's Stories

- [Senate Releases Calendar for Second Half of 2018](#)
- [House OKs Religious Rights Bills, Child Marriage Ban, Rules on Explicit Images](#)
- [Senate Passes Government Regulations Reduction, Community School Legislation](#)
- [Dems Thwarted in Effort to Report Out Payday Lending Bill](#)
- [Senate Panel Seeks to Clarify E-School 'Safe Harbor' Provisions](#)
- [Energy Standards Bill Still Not Ready to Move, Lawmakers Say](#)
- [Portman, Brown Tout Defense Investment, Push Lake Erie Clean-Up](#)
- [SCOTUS Rules against Public-Sector Labor Unions](#)
- [Reactions Roll In to SCOTUS Decision in Janus v. AFSCME 31](#)
- [U.S. Supreme Court Justice Kennedy to Retire](#)
- [Judicial Actions: Opinions; Appeals Accepted](#)
- [Executive Actions: Appointments](#)

House Committee Reports

- [Agriculture and Rural Development](#)
- [Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security](#)
- [Civil Justice](#)
- [Government Accountability and Oversight](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Insurance](#)

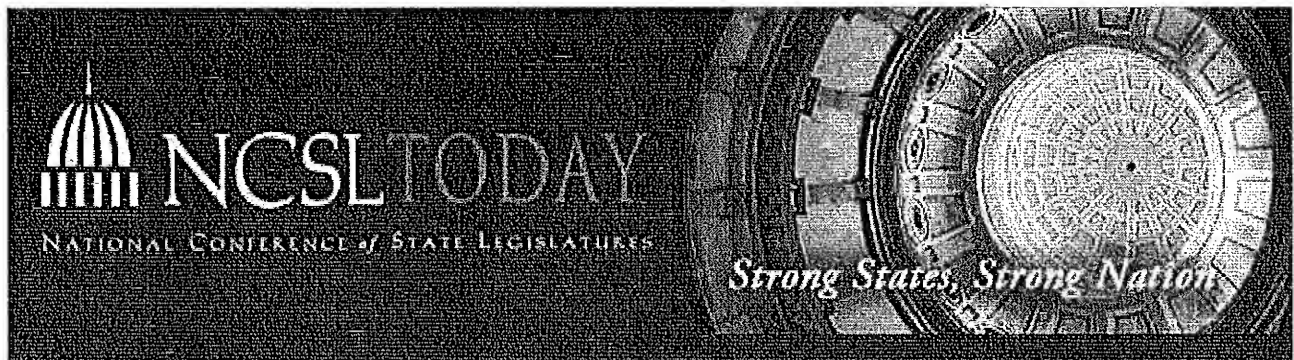
Senate Committee Reports

- [Education](#)
- [Energy and Natural Resources](#)
- [Finance](#)
- [Government Oversight and Reform](#)
- [Rules and Reference Committee](#)
- [Transportation, Commerce and Workforce](#)

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614.227.5820 | www.hannah.com

From: NCSL TODAY
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 11:01 AM
To: Slack, Cora
Subject: Hey, you, behind the wheel: Turn off 'Survivor'

NCSL Today | Manage your subscription



TOP NEWS June 28, 2018

States cracking down on streaming video while driving

USA TODAY

Georgia isn't the only state to single out streaming as a new danger. A Washington state law, the Driving Under the Influence of Electronics Act, in January was the first to specifically mention video on phones. It even makes it illegal for Washington drivers to sneak a peek at their smartphone when stopped in traffic or at a stoplight, though they can touch a mounted or in-dash screen.

NCSL's Annie Kitch quoted.

[NCSL resources on distracted driving.](#)

'Now comes the interesting part' with online sales tax collections

Route Fifty

The court ruling in *South Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc.* has



also left complicated questions in its wake. Like what the specifics of new state policies could look like, whether Congress will take action, and how companies that sell goods online will react. **NCSL's Max Behlke** quoted.

Maine legislature passes sweeping medical marijuana reform bill

Portland Press Herald

The bill, which now goes to Gov. Paul LePage, would let caregivers expand their business operations. For example, they could hire more than one worker, and sell up to 30 percent of their harvest to other caregivers and dispensaries.

[NCSL resources on medical marijuana.](#)

Ohio legislature passes blockchain legislation

Cleveland.com

Ohio is close to becoming the latest state to offer legal support for blockchain-based business transactions, following a Wednesday vote by the state's General Assembly.

[NCSL LegisBrief on blockchain technology.](#)

South Carolina lawmakers OK rate cuts for failed nuclear plants

Associated Press

South Carolina lawmakers have approved a temporary rate cut of nearly 15 percent for customers of a private utility who paid billions for two nuclear reactors that never produced power.

Webinar 3 p.m. ET TODAY Federal infrastructure funding - an update while we wait

One of the most talked-about possibilities for federal action in 2018 is a new infrastructure bill that aims to inject what nearly all experts agree is a significant boost of funds for many of our national infrastructure systems.



= A

2017 state tax actions

Hear from thought leaders at NCSL's Legislative Summit July 30-Aug. 2

Connect with the new NCSL Events mobile app



Supreme Court deals blow to unions in Janus case

The U.S. Supreme Court held 5-4 in *Janus v. AFSCME* that state statutes allowing public sector employers and unions to agree that employees who don't join the union must still pay their

Commercial spaceports still waiting for liftoff

Stateline

Communities are eager to tap into the growing commercial space industry.

"fair share" of collective bargaining costs violate the First Amendment.

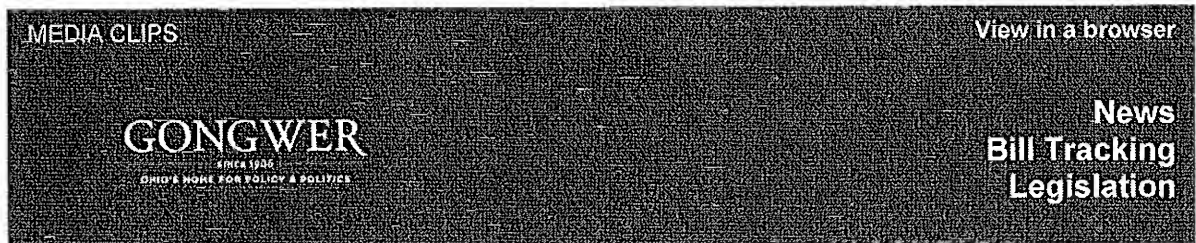


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From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Monday, July 2, 2018 8:35 AM
To: Slack, Cora
Subject: Ohio Media Clips, Monday, July 2



NEWS

Auditor's report shows opioids impact on Medicaid (Associated Press, 7/2/2018)

Ohio Lawmakers Approve Lake Erie Algae Prevention Bill (Associated Press, 7/2/2018)

Biden in Cincy: Trump's ideology is 'aggrandizing power' (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/2/2018)

Complaint: Security should not stop black, female lawmaker (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/2/2018)

Ohio's Trump country is fond of this Democrat (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/2/2018)

First Ohio medical marijuana cultivator OK'd to grow cannabis, testing lab licenses awarded (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/2/2018)

Hey Washington, regular Ohioans agree on these federal budget fixes (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/2/2018)

Ohio's new compliant driver's licenses: What documents will you need? (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/2/2018)

Rep. Emilia Sykes files racism, sexism complaints with Ohio Civil Rights Commission over state building security allegations (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/2/2018)

Capitol Insider: Why is Ohio Medicaid defending pharmacy middlemen? (Columbus Dispatch, 7/2/2018)

Fireworks bill still up in the air as July Fourth holiday approaches (Columbus Dispatch, 7/2/2018)

Ohio teacher evaluations get an overhaul teachers like (Columbus Dispatch, 7/2/2018)

Ohio U and University of Toledo team up on health issues, including opioids (Columbus Dispatch, 7/2/2018)

Video catches Cordray dropping another Nazi reference (Columbus Dispatch, 7/2/2018)

Local child's death could spark statewide abuse registry (Dayton Daily News, 7/2/2018)

Ohio governor race: DeWine says he wants to make these changes to Ohio's early childhood programs (Dayton Daily News, 7/2/2018)

Some Ohio Democrats on ballot this year for Congress say Pelosi must go (Dayton Daily News, 7/2/2018)

2 Butler County Statehouse candidates among the state's top fundraisers since January (Journal-News, 7/2/2018)

Ohio lawmakers back bill requiring teachers to out transgender kids (Journal-News, 7/2/2018)

Lawmakers send Clean Lake 2020 Plan to Kasich (Port Clinton News Herald, 7/2/2018)

Fireworks regulations vary by state, city (Toledo Blade, 7/2/2018)

Government, military officials in favor of Trump's nuclear bailout plan (Toledo Blade, 7/2/2018)

Janus ruling unlikely to impact local unions, organizers say (Toledo Blade, 7/2/2018)

U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur to receive key to the city (Toledo Blade, 7/2/2018)

EDITORIALS

Beacon Journal/Ohio.com editorial board: Repair online charter schools? Statehouse Republicans aren't there yet (Akron Beacon Journal, 7/2/2018)

Ohio lawmakers pass questionable legislation in 'bill-a-thon' session: Thomas Suddes (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/2/2018)

Editorial: Senate payday delay hurts consumers but helps lobbyists (Columbus Dispatch, 7/2/2018)

Sherrod Brown steps up (Toledo Blade, 7/2/2018)

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From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Monday, July 2, 2018 2:51 PM
To: Westlake, Libby; Best, Carolyn; Slack, Cora; Adams, Alexandra
Subject: FW: Press Release - Janus

Also, Rep. Becker would like to send this press release today, with the possibility that this could be expanded into a guest editorial in the future.

While the effect of the Janus decision is excellent news for employers and workers across Ohio, the unfortunate precedent of judicial activism which makes the process necessary should end. Thank you!

Joe Michalowski

Legislative Aide

State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65
77 S. High Street, 12th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215-6108
Office: (614) 466-8134 | joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov

From: John@BeckerGOP.com <John@BeckerGOP.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 01, 2018 2:39 PM
To: Michalowski, Joe <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Press Release - Janus

Joe,

Let's do a press release Monday: Right-to-Work leader condemns Janus v. AFSCME decision
Use excerpts from The Becker Report: "The good news is that we now have nationwide public sector right-to-work. The bad news is that the little kings in black robes continue to overstep their constitutional authority by forcing their opinions down the throats of the rest of us. The Constitution does not give the Supreme Court the authority to rule over the entire nation. (They are only superior to the lower courts.) Nor does the Constitution grant the Supreme Court veto power over legislation; also known as judicial review. These are powers that the courts have granted to themselves."

John Becker, CTP, MBA - Taxation
State Representative
Ohio's 65th District House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 12th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

614-466-8134 (o)

513-753-6440 (h)

<mailto:Rep65@OhioHouse.gov>

Vetted, Tested, and Proven!

"Becker has a legitimate claim as the state's most conservative legislator," according to The [Cleveland] Plain Dealer (September 2017).

"Rep. John Becker, suburban Cincinnati Republican... [holds] the unofficial title as the General Assembly's most conservative lawmaker," proclaimed the Columbus Dispatch (September 2015).

Becker wins prestigious William Wilberforce Leadership Award (April 2015).

"GOP Ohio House freshman Becker is no shrinking violet," headlined the Columbus Dispatch (December 2014).

"Becker...is arguably the most conservative member of the Ohio House," said The Cincinnati Enquirer (January 2014).

Ranked as a top tier "most archconservative" by the Columbus Dispatch (September 2013).

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Joe Michalowski

Legislative Aide

State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65
77 S. High Street, 12th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215-6108
Office: (614) 466-8134 | joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov

From: John@BeckerGOP.com <John@BeckerGOP.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 01, 2018 2:39 PM
To: Michalowski, Joe <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Press Release - Janus

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John Becker, CTP, MBA - Taxation
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Ranked as a top tier "most archconservative" by the Columbus Dispatch (September 2013).

From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Monday, July 2, 2018 5:33 PM
To: Westlake, Libby; Best, Carolyn; Slack, Cora; Adams, Alexandra
Subject: RE: ALERT: Media Advisory - Rep. Becker
Attachments: 7-2-18 Becker Janus Press Release.docx; 7-2-18 Becker Enhanced DL Press Release.docx

Good evening,

Rep. Becker has approved both of these press releases. If the Associated Press isn't included in the usual list for our local and state media, he would like to send the Janus press release to the AP as well. Thank you so much!

I hope each of you enjoys a well-deserved holiday!

Joe Michalowski

Legislative Aide

State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65

77 S. High Street, 12th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215-6108

Office: (614) 466-8134 | joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Monday, July 02, 2018 2:55 PM
To: Michalowski, Joe <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>; Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Adams, Alexandra <Alexandra.Adams@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: ALERT: Media Advisory - Rep. Becker

I can do this one.

Libby Henson

Special Assistant to the Speaker for Correspondence

Office of Speaker Ryan Smith | Ohio House of Representatives

(614) 728-5448

From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Monday, July 02, 2018 2:39 PM
To: Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Best, Carolyn

<Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Adams, Alexandra <Alexandra.Adams@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: RE: ALERT: Media Advisory - Rep. Becker

Thanks again for working with us on this media advisory. Rep. Becker would like to send a press release celebrating the occasion of his receiving one of the first "compliant" driver's licenses (via mail) issued at the Milford BMV this morning. Happy Independence Day!

Joe Michalowski

Legislative Aide

State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65

77 S. High Street, 12th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215-6108

Office: (614) 466-8134 | joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov

From: Michalowski, Joe

Sent: Friday, June 29, 2018 3:46 PM

To: Crock, Sarah <Sarah.Crock@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Adams, Alexandra <Alexandra.Adams@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: RE: ALERT: Media Advisory - Rep. Becker

Yes Sarah, that's the Milford location. Thank you so much!

Joe Michalowski

Legislative Aide

State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65

77 S. High Street, 12th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215-6108

Office: (614) 466-8134 | joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov

From: Crock, Sarah.

Sent: Friday, June 29, 2018 3:38 PM

To: Michalowski, Joe <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Adams, Alexandra <Alexandra.Adams@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: RE: ALERT: Media Advisory - Rep. Becker

Hi Joe,

I can send out an updated media advisory. Can you confirm the information below please?

WHERE: Milford BMV
1007 Lila Ave
Milford, OH 45150

Sarah Crock
LSC Fellow '18
Majority Communications
Ohio House of Representatives
(614) 466-5007

From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2018 2:06 PM
To: Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Crock, Sarah <Sarah.Crock@ohiohouse.gov>; Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Adams, Alexandra <Alexandra.Adams@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: ALERT: Media Advisory - Rep. Becker

Good afternoon,

Thank you so much for preparing this media advisory. Rep. Becker has always gone to the Batavia location for his BMV services, but he thought it may be better to hold the event at the Milford location, which is in our district, unlike the Batavia location.

I spoke with Molly at the BMV, and she said it shouldn't be a problem from the BMV's perspective to move the event location. Would it be wise to revise the location (same time) of the event in the media advisory, or is it rare to change the location like this? Please forgive us for any confusion.

Sincerely,

Joe Michalowski

Legislative Aide

State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65
77 S. High Street, 12th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215-6108
Office: (614) 466-8134 | joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2018 9:20 AM
To: Crock, Sarah <Sarah.Crock@ohiohouse.gov>; Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora

<Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Adams, Alexandra <Alexandra.Adams@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: Michalowski, Joe <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: ALERT: Media Advisory - Rep. Becker

Libby Henson

Special Assistant to the Speaker for Correspondence
Office of Speaker Ryan Smith | Ohio House of Representatives
(614) 728-5448

From: Crock, Sarah
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2018 9:16 AM
To: Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Adams, Alexandra <Alexandra.Adams@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: Michalowski, Joe <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: ALERT: Media Advisory - Rep. Becker

Adding Joe and also adding that I will send at 9:30.

From: Crock, Sarah
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2018 9:02 AM
To: Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Adams, Alexandra <Alexandra.Adams@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: ALERT: Media Advisory - Rep. Becker

My first media advisory ☺ Let me know if I missed anything.



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Majority Communications Department

For Immediate Release:
June 29, 2018

Contact: Joe Michalowski
(614) 466-8134

Media Advisory:

Rep. John Becker to be Among the First to Receive Compliant Driver's License

COLUMBUS—State Representative John Becker (R-Union Township, Clermont County) will be among the first to sign up for Ohio's updated, compliant driver's license that will allow card holders to access federal facilities and will suffice as identification for certain flights.

WHO: State Representative John Becker

WHERE: Batavia BMV
457 W Main St.
Batavia, OH 45103

WHEN: (different font) Monday, July 2, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

For Immediate Release:
July 2, 2018

Contact: Joe Michalowski
(614) 466-8134

Right-to-Work leader Rep. Becker condemns judicial activism of *Janus v. AFSCME* decision

COLUMBUS— State Representative John Becker (R-Union Township, Clermont County) today criticized the judicial activism of the recent decision in *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31*, while celebrating its effect. *Janus* overturned *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education*, which had allowed public-sector labor unions to collect “agency fees” from bargaining unit members who opt out of union membership. The opinion of the Court, authored by Justice Samuel Alito and joined by Justices Roberts, Kennedy, Thomas, and Gorsuch, provides that public-sector labor unions cannot collect such fees unless bargaining unit members opt in to the practice.

While the effect of the decision granted a significant boost to workers’ free speech rights, the verdict, like so many other judicial decisions, violates the principle that nine unelected judges serve as impartial adjudicators who play a role reserved to the legislative branch.

“The good news is that we now have public sector right-to-work across the United States. The bad news is that the little kings in black robes continue to overstep their constitutional authority by forcing their opinions down the throats of the rest of us,” said Rep. Becker. “The U.S. Constitution does not give the Supreme Court of the United States the authority to rule over the entire nation. Rather, they are only superior to the lower courts. Nor does the U.S. Constitution grant the Supreme Court veto power over legislation, also known as judicial review. These are powers that the Justices of the Court have granted to themselves,” Becker continued.

The US Constitution does not specify that the judiciary has the ability to overturn legislation, the judiciary, including the US Supreme Court, have often overturned duly passed laws on both the federal and state level.



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

For Immediate Release:

July 2, 2018

Representative Becker Receives Compliant Driver's License

COLUMBUS—State Representative John Becker (R-Union Township, Clermont County) today applied for one of Ohio's first, updated compliant driver's licenses at the Milford location of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, which is part of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. The new licenses will allow access to federal facilities and will suffice as identification for certain flights.

"The process of getting Ohio's new compliant driver's license remains quick and easy to obtain, and it is more secure than in the past," said Rep. Becker. "This new process puts Ohio on the road to serving drivers better," Becker stated.

Because of newly instituted reforms at the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Rep. Becker will receive his new license in the mail in no more than 10 days, rather than immediately upon its issue. The BMV deputy registrar issues a temporary license to the motorist to ensure that they can drive uninterrupted. Ohio joins forty-one other states in the nation to make this change, which is expected to make the system more secure and to comply with federal regulations.

-30-

For more information, please contact Joe Michalowski at (614) 466-8134 or Rep65@ohiohouse.gov

From: Best, Carolyn
Sent: Tuesday, July 3, 2018 10:41 AM
To: Adams, Alexandra; Westlake, Libby; Slack, Cora
CC: Michalowski, Joe
Subject: PR ALERT: Becker Janus Statement (sending at 11)



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

For Immediate Release:
July 3, 2018

Contact: Joe Michalowski
(614) 466-8134

Right-to-Work Leader Rep. Becker Condemns Judicial Activism of *Janus v. AFSCME* Decision

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To: Adams, Alexandra; Westlake, Libby; Slack, Cora
CC: Michalowski, Joe
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July 3, 2018

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From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Tuesday, July 3, 2018 11:09 AM
To: Best, Carolyn; Adams, Alexandra; Westlake, Libby; Slack, Cora
Subject: Re: PR ALERT: Becker Janus Statement (sending at 11)

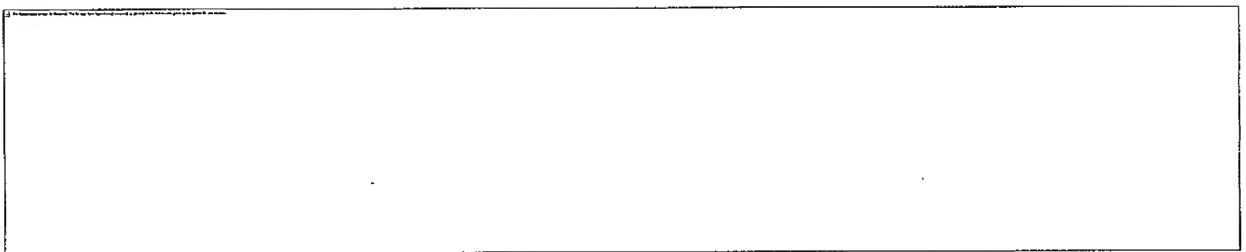
I suggest changing the grammatical construction in the second paragraph, as reflected below. Thanks again!

Joe Michalowski
Legislative Aide
State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65
77 S. High Street, 12th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215-6108
Office: (614) 466-8134 | joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Best, Carolyn" <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>
Date: 7/3/18 10:41 AM (GMT-05:00)
To: "Adams, Alexandra" <Alexandra.Adams@ohiohouse.gov>, "Westlake, Libby" <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>, "Slack, Cora" <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: "Michalowski, Joe" <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: PR ALERT: Becker Janus Statement (sending at 11)



For Immediate Release:

Contact: Joe Michalowski

July 3, 2018

(614) 466-8134

Right-to-Work Leader Rep. Becker Condemns Judicial Activism of *Ajanus v. AFSCME* Decision

COLUMBUS—State Representative John Becker (R-Union Township, Clermont County) today criticized the judicial activism of the recent decision in *Ajanus v. AFSCME Council 31*, while celebrating its effect. *Janus* overturned *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education*, which had allowed public-sector labor unions to collect “agency fees” from bargaining unit members who opt out of union membership. The opinion of the Court, authored by Justice Samuel Alito and joined by Justices Roberts, Kennedy, Thomas, and Gorsuch, provides that public-sector labor unions cannot collect such fees unless bargaining unit members opt in to the practice.

While the effect of the decision granted a significant boost to workers’ free speech rights, the verdict, like so many other judicial decisions, violates the principle that nine unelected judges serve as impartial adjudicators. Instead, they are playing a role reserved to the legislative branch.

“The good news is that we now have public sector right-to-work across the United States. The bad news is that the little kings in black robes continue to overstep their constitutional authority by forcing their opinions down the throats of the rest of us,” said Rep. Becker. “The U.S. Constitution does not give the Supreme Court of the United States the authority to rule over the entire nation. Rather, they are only superior to the lower courts. Nor does the U.S. Constitution grant the Supreme Court veto power over legislation, also known as judicial review. These are powers that the Justices of the Court have granted to themselves,” Becker continued.

The U.S. Constitution does not specify that the judiciary has the ability to overturn legislation, the judiciary, including the US Supreme Court, have often overturned duly passed laws on both the federal and state level.

From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Tuesday, July 3, 2018 11:09 AM
To: Best, Carolyn; Adams, Alexandra; Westlake, Libby; Slack, Cora
Subject: Re: PR ALERT: Becker Janus Statement (sending at 11)

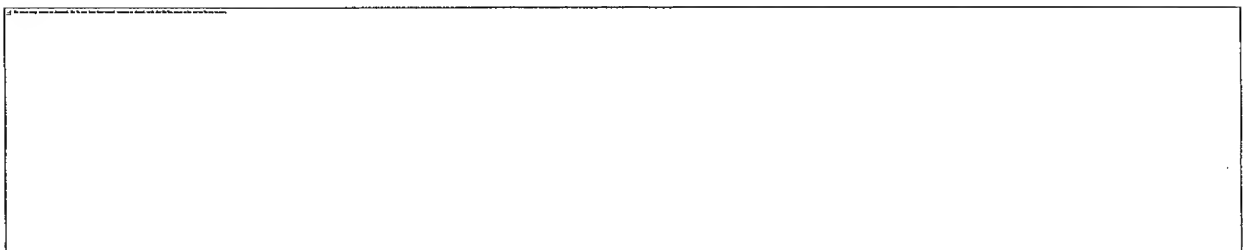
I suggest changing the grammatical construction in the second paragraph, as reflected below. Thanks again!

Joe Michalowski
Legislative Aide
State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65
77 S. High Street, 12th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215-6108
Office: (614) 466-8134 | joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Best, Carolyn" <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>
Date: 7/3/18 10:41 AM (GMT-05:00)
To: "Adams, Alexandra" <Alexandra.Adams@ohiohouse.gov>, "Westlake, Libby" <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>, "Slack, Cora" <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: "Michalowski, Joe" <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: PR ALERT: Becker Janus Statement (sending at 11)



For Immediate Release:

Contact: Joe Michalowski

July 3, 2018

(614) 466-8134

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The U.S. Constitution does not specify that the judiciary has the ability to overturn legislation, the judiciary, including the US Supreme Court, have often overturned duly passed laws on both the federal and state level.

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Thursday, July 5, 2018 9:56 AM
To: Best, Carolyn; Adams, Alexandra; Slack, Cora; Crock, Sarah; Lenzo, Mike; Kasych, Shawn; Lundregan, Scott; Myers, Marisa; Donelon, Terry; Baker, Dan; Young, Brad; Snider, Grace; Garczyk, Cameron; Sarko, Alyssa
Subject: Smith Clips for 7/5/2018

SMITH CLIPS



LAWMAKERS UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE FUTURE OF RIGHT TO WORK BILLS IN POST-JANUS OHIO

As the dust was still settling on the last voting session day for the Ohio House of Representatives and Senate, leaders of both chambers fielded questions about another major piece of news occurring while they were busy passing legislation; the Janus v. AFSCME decision made by the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS).



SMITH APPLAUDS BILL PASSAGE PROTECTING PASTORS, CLEAN LAKE PLAN

Speaker of the Ohio House Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) has applauded the passage of Senate Bill 299, or the "Clean Lake 2020 Plan," and House Bill 36, or the "Ohio Pastor Protection Act," by the Ohio House of Representatives.

Libby Henson

Special Assistant to the Speaker for Correspondence
Office of Speaker Ryan Smith | Ohio House of Representatives
(614) 728-5448

From: Westlake, Libby

Sent: Thursday, July 5, 2018 9:56 AM

To: Best, Carolyn; Adams, Alexandra; Slack, Cora; Crock, Sarah; Lenzo, Mike; Kasych, Shawn; Lundregan, Scott; Myers, Marisa; Donelon, Terry; Baker, Dan; Young, Brad; Snider, Grace; Garczyk, Cameron; Sarko, Alyssa

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Libby Henson

Special Assistant to the Speaker for Correspondence
Office of Speaker Ryan Smith | Ohio House of Representatives
(614) 728-5448

From: GOVERNING Daily
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 8:50 AM
To: Slack, Cora
Subject: Union Ruling Could Impact Black Women the Most

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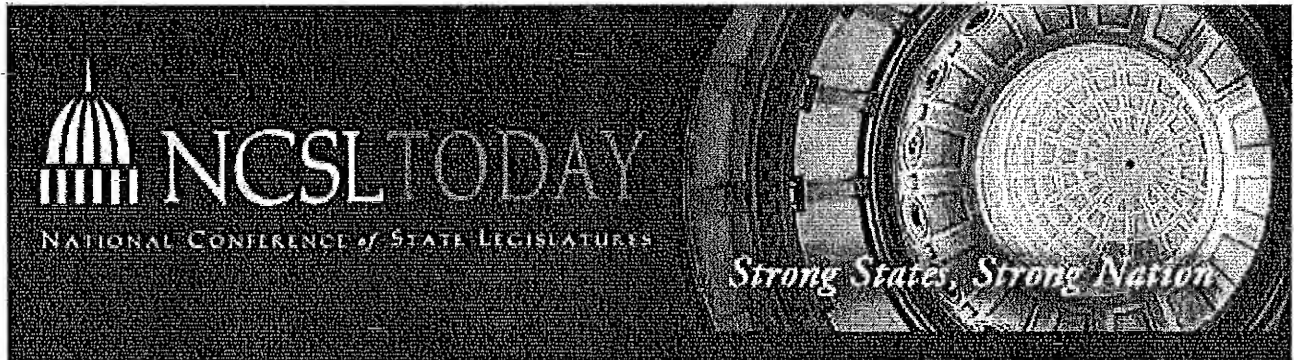
"California's decision not to assist federal immigration enforcement in its endeavors is not an 'obstacle' to that enforcement effort. Standing aside does not equate to standing in the way."

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From: NCSL TODAY
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 5:34 PM
To: Slack, Cora
Subject: Why 'orphan' oil and gas wells are a growing problem for states

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TOP NEWS July 9, 2018

Why 'orphan' oil and gas wells are a growing problem for states

Stateline

Unplugged wells can leak explosive gas into neighborhoods and leach toxins into groundwater.

At state level, GOP renews push for 'supermajority' for tax hikes

The Washington Post

Florida Republicans are pursuing a plan to make it harder for lawmakers to raise taxes in the state, adding new hurdles for Democrats hoping to enact bold social programs such as "Medicare for all" and more robust education spending. **NCSL research cited.**

Insurers warn of rising premiums after Trump axes Obamacare payments again

Reuters



Health insurers warned that a move by the Trump administration on Saturday to temporarily suspend a program that was set to pay out \$10.4 billion to insurers for covering high-risk individuals last year could drive up premium costs and create marketplace uncertainty. [NCSL resources on health insurances premiums and increases.](#)

North Dakota measure would ban noncitizen voting

Associated Press

Backers of a measure to change the North Dakota Constitution to explicitly bar non-U.S. citizens from voting say they have gathered enough signatures to get it on the November ballot. **NCSL research cited.**

Delaware lawmakers approve bill to prohibit pharmacist 'gag clauses'

Delaware Public Media

Pharmacy Benefits Managers (PBMs), third-party administrators of prescription drug programs for health insurance plans, sometimes forbid pharmacists from telling customers about cheaper therapeutic alternatives, or disclosing when a drug might be cheaper when paid for out-of-pocket, rather than through insurance. = A **NCSL data cited.** [NCSL resources on 'gag clauses'.](#)

Janus ruling is a blow to public unions - especially bad for black women

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collective bargaining power, which has historically benefited women of color more than most.

a non-attorney and attorney audiences.



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7700 East First Place, Denver, CO 80230

From: GOVERNING Daily
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2018 9:19 AM
To: Slack, Cora
Subject: Voting Rights Debate Moves From Statehouses to Ballot Boxes

GOVERNING Daily

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FEATURED STORY FOR JULY 10, 2018

Voting Rights Debate Moves From Statehouses to Ballot Boxes

Voters will weigh in this fall on voter registration, campaign finance and redistricting.

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Spending is up on airports but down or flat for schools, highways and prisons.

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Black, Female and Serving the Public: A Conversation With the Lawmaker Fighting Statehouse Discrimination

Ohio Rep. Emilia Sykes gets stopped by security trying to enter her place of work. She wants others to share their stories of prejudice.

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Not everybody charged with a felony needs to be behind bars, and speeding up court processes can have a significant impact.

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From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 6:04 PM
To: Slack, Cora
Subject: Ohio Report, Monday, March 21, 2016
Attachments: Mar21.htm; Mar21House.htm; Mar21Senate.htm;
160321dayplan.htm



Ohio Report for Monday, March 21, 2016

Energy Companies Remain Hopeful For March Ruling On PPAs

Controlling Board Approves Funding For Elections Training, Teacher Certification, Licensure

Riedel Plans To Pursue Right To Work, Push For Economic Development After Toppling Incumbent

Kasich Lags In Money Race, Walks Back Statement On Garland, Announces Arizona Leadership Team And Campaign Stops...

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Capitol Scene: Former Dispatch Editor Marrison Joins Yost Team

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Volume #85, Report #54 -- Monday, March 21, 2016

Energy Companies Remain Hopeful For March Ruling On PPAs

For more than a year and a half, AEP and FirstEnergy have waited for the Public Utilities Commission's orders on their controversial Power Purchase Agreements - decisions that have been expected to be made in the first quarter of 2016.

But with just one more meeting of the PUCO scheduled for this month, it's possible the wait for one or both decisions could stretch into the second quarter.

The PUCO is scheduled to meet just once more this month - a March 30 meeting for which the agenda has not yet been finalized. The commission will not meet March 23.

Whether the agenda will include one or both cases hasn't yet been determined, but PUCO spokesman Matt Schilling said any belief the ruling will come in the first quarter has been conjecture.

"For what it's worth the commission's never indicated when a decision may be," Mr. Schilling said. "There is lots of speculation out there, but we don't know."

The companies involved and their opponents have been anticipating first quarter orders. Should a decision not come in two weeks' time, the cases a year and a half or more in the making would be poised to continue.

The utilities are hopeful a decision arrives sooner, rather than later. In FirstEnergy's case, for example, the company has two energy auctions scheduled in April under the Electric Security Plan scheduled to begin June 1.

"So we're very hopeful we can get an order in this case so we can proceed with these auctions," spokesman Doug Colafella said. "Because as of June 1, we don't have power supply purchased for our customers."

"I think everyone is hopeful a decision may come as of next meeting. But obviously it's up to commission to put it on the agenda."

AEP spokeswoman Tammy Ridout said the company is "hopeful the commission will issue an order quickly."

"They have all the evidence in hand and we think they should approve the settlement agreement we've proposed," she said. "It's been a long process and we're ready for it to move forward,"

Potentially complicating matters is the ongoing complaints against both PPAs before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The Ohio Consumers' Counsel in February urged the PUCO to delay ruling until the FERC cases are settled. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 17, 2016)

In their latest filing, the Electric Power Supply Association argued that the companies have failed to rebut the concerns raised in the complaints and FERC "should issue an order as soon as possible granting the complaints."

The group cites opposition from PJM, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, the Northwest Ohio Aggregation Council and others as showing the merits of its case.

"It is rare to see these parties and suppliers in complete agreement on wholesale market issues, and that they are should be a clear sign that, to paraphrase Shakespeare, something is rotten in the state of Ohio," the group wrote.

In their testimony, AEP and FirstEnergy both argue FERC has no jurisdiction in the matter and that the complaints are baseless because the allegations of consumer harm are "misplaced." (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 24, 2016)

Controlling Board Approves Funding For Elections Training, Teacher Certification, Licensure

Controlling Board members approved \$92,500 in funding for the Secretary of State's office to hold elections training in Cleveland, though one lawmaker questioned why the event wasn't slated for Columbus.

The training event has recently been held either in Columbus as a two-day event or at five locations around the state as one-day events. Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus) asked if having the event in Cleveland could affect turnout for people in distant parts of the state. If turnout is low, he said, it could mean the office would have to come back before the board for more money.

Veronica Sherman, chief financial officer for the secretary of state's office, said she didn't expect to need more money.

"I think the cost that we have laid out here is the high end of the parameter and we would not expect to have to come back for more money," she said.

The office wanted to have only one event because it allows for more intensive training, she said.

Sen. Tom Sawyer (D-Akron) questioned part of a request from the Department of Education for \$3.2 million over two years for teacher certification and licensure, which includes the Office of Professional Conduct. The proposal cited an increase in the number of open cases, partially because of high-profile data manipulation scandals.

Sen. Sawyer asked if the department was targeting any particular types of schools or other programs in investigating data manipulation. Aaron Rausch, the department's director of budget and school funding, said they focused on individuals, not broad types of school districts.

"We appreciate that you don't want to go out on a witch hunt, but having said that, knowing that you're well targeted gives us more comfort," Sen. Sawyer said.

Mr. Rausch said the data manipulation cases are part of the increased load at the Office of Professional Conduct, but are not the only reason for the increase. Other things that have increased the caseload include a program that tracks the backgrounds of teachers and employees after they have been hired, finding any new hits to their record while they are working.

"Just in general there has been an increase in the caseload of the Office of Professional Conduct," he said.

The Controlling Board also approved a new contract the Department of Administrative Services reached with the Fraternal Order of Police Ohio Labor Council. The contract covers more than 500 employees statewide in eight state agencies, said Kristen Rankin, interim deputy director for the Office of Collective Bargaining.

The contract runs through June 30, 2018, and is similar to past contracts, though changes include switching from an annual clothing allowance to reimbursement and modifying the drug-free workplace policy to prohibit employees from working if they have blood alcohol contents above 0.02.

A request for \$1.45 million from the Development Services Agency for programs aimed at revitalizing distressed communities was deferred at the agency's request.

Other items approved by the board included requests for (Agenda):

- \$4.4 million from the Court of Claims for the payment of a wrongful imprisonment settlement for Kwame Ajamu, formerly Ronnie Bridgeman, and Wiley Bridgeman.
- \$615,852 from the Department of Natural Resources for geological mapping.
- \$1.9 million from the Ohio State University for a higher education system maintenance and upgrade project. The system manages data on student enrollment, courses, financial aid and more.
- \$3.1 million from OSU for roof and electrical repairs for three buildings on the Marion campus.
- \$4 million from the Development Services Agency for affordable housing assistance grants.

- \$1.9 million from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for a number of projects to clean up polluted sites.

Riedel Plans To Pursue Right To Work, Push For Economic Development After Toppling Incumbent

Although he was an outsider in a primary race against an incumbent, businessman Craig Riedel has had no shortage of attention from Columbus since winning his bid to head to the statehouse in January.

The Defiance Republican edged out Rep. Tony Burkley (R-Paulding) in last week's primary to represent Defiance, Paulding, Van Wert and part of Auglaize counties.

Lacking a Democrat competitor in the November election, Mr. Riedel, 49, will be headed to the Statehouse next year. After a brief hiatus from campaigning, he said he'll begin crafting his agenda by meeting with fellow lawmakers who've already begun courting him.



Craig Riedel

"I'm in a major learning curve right now. I'm going to take the summer to meet with those other representatives who've reached out to me that want to talk to me and let me know what I might expect as to how things operate," said the newcomer, who had never run for a political office before retiring from a management position at Nucor Corporation in July to pursue the House seat.

Mr. Riedel said he'll also be familiarizing himself with the capital city, having only spent a brief amount of time at the Statehouse during the last General Assembly.

Ironically, that visit was a "shadowing" of Rep. Burkley while the incumbent performed his state rep duties. Unbeknownst to his host, Mr. Riedel would soon be angling for his job.

Mr. Riedel said he asked Mr. Burkley for the opportunity because he wanted to learn more about the legislature.

When the House GOP first threw its financial support behind Rep. Burkley, Mr. Riedel said he was confused because no one in the party had gotten to know him. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 4, 2016)

It's customary for both parties to protect their incumbents, especially in key elections where candidates have well-financed and organized campaigns like that of Mr. Riedel. However, the winner of Tuesday's election said he was able to pull off a victory despite the powers-that-be because voters trust him.

"I think the people we met, they saw the sincerity in my words and my life and they had the confidence in me that I was going to go to Columbus and truly represent them and that I would not be afraid to be criticized or that I wouldn't be afraid to go against the line when I felt it was necessary," he said.

At the risk of upsetting the party, Mr. Riedel said that while he's planning to vote mostly with his peers, he won't be afraid to lead on conservative issues that haven't yet been tackled, such as making Ohio a so-called "right to work" state.

Working with Nucor Corporation for 27 years, he said he saw a number of businesses choose to settle in neighboring states such as Indiana or Michigan because workers in those states are not required to join unions.

"I understand why unions may be necessary but what I believe is an individual should have a right to choose whether or not they want to belong to a union or not," he said. "I think it's wrong that you're required in Ohio to join a union if there is a union in your facility. You should have that freedom of choice."

Working in private business his entire career, Mr. Riedel said he understands how important teamwork is to being successful, however sticking to one's principals is just as important.

"I'm always going to be very respectful and of the Republican Party and I'm very conservative, but I'm always going to do what I think is right and there are going to be times when that goes divergent from what the Republicans would like me to do," he said.

"My bosses are my God and the constituents of the 82nd House District. That's who I'm going to answer to. I'm always going to do what I believe is the right thing to do," Mr. Riedel continued.

Having already knocked on the doors of 4,400 constituents with his wife, Danette, leading up to the election, he said he'll continue meeting with people in his district and find out what issues they care most about.

Another priority will be meeting with business and civic groups to determine the best way to meet his goals of reducing taxes and business regulations as well as spurring economic development, Mr. Riedel said.

Kasich Lags In Money Race, Walks Back Statement On Garland, Announces Arizona Leadership Team And Campaign Stops...

Gov. John Kasich trails competitors Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and billionaire Donald Trump in the race to secure enough delegates to secure the Republican Party's nomination for president.

He also trails in the money race.

Gov. Kasich reported \$1.25 million on hand at the beginning of March, according to his latest campaign finance report filed with the Federal Election Commission. In February, he raised \$3.4 million and spent \$3.6 million.

Sen. Cruz began the month of March with \$8 million on hand. He raised \$11.8 million and spent \$17.5 million in February.

Mr. Trump had \$1.6 million on hand at the beginning of March. He raised just \$2 million in February, but loaned his campaign nearly \$7 million during the month, bring the total to \$24.3 million since entering the campaign. He spent \$9.5 million in February.

Garland: Over the weekend, the governor was forced to walk back a comment he made about President Barack Obama's pick to fill the seat of former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

During a taped interview for CBS' "Face the Nation," Gov. Kasich suggested he would consider nominating Merrick Garland to a seat on the bench.

He later said that statement was made "in an effort to be polite."

"Look, you know, Garland's - I'm going have my own picks for Supreme Court," he said. "You know, the fact is, I said that they ought to meet him and talk to him, and I'm not going to pick somebody who's, you know, obviously not a respecter of the Second Amendment. I don't want people making law and so nobody should be confused, worked up or upset. He's not going to be my pick for the Supreme Court."

Also, during a taped interview on NBC's "Meet the Press," Gov. Kasich ruled out the possibility of being the running mate of either Sen. Cruz or Mr. Trump.

Leadership Team: Ahead of Tuesday's primary contest in Arizona, Gov. Kasich announced his leadership team there that includes two state lawmakers, two former chiefs of staff to governors, a disability rights advocate and several activists.

"We have a great team in Arizona," Gov. Kasich said. "I am very appreciative of their help to share our positive message to strengthen our country and bring real solutions to the America people."

Campaign Stops: Gov. Kasich on Monday was one of four presidential candidates scheduled to address the American Israel Public Affairs Committee Policy Conference.

In his speech to AIPAC, Gov. Kasich made a pitch based on experience, according to *Politico*.

On Wednesday, he is scheduled to hold a town hall event in Wisconsin, where he picked up the endorsement of former Treasurer Jack Voight.

Draft Kasich Movement: According to *New York Times Magazine* writer Robert Draper, the GOP establishment is not rushing to get on board the bandwagon for Gov. Kasich to secure the party's nomination in a brokered process.

According to Mr. Draper, party insiders are rejecting the movement because of his poor showing in most states, along with his support for Medicaid expansion and embrace of Common Core, despite helping to balance the budget as chairman of the House Budget Committee.

"But there's a third layer of resistance to Kasich, one with which Cruz can identify: Many Beltway Republicans don't like him," he writes.

"No doubt Chairman Kasich's strict budgets made life unpleasant for a few lobbyists. But so did his demeanor - which, D.C. veterans say, was often sanctimonious and rude," he continued.

Campaign Continues: Despite needing more than 100 percent of remaining elected delegates to secure the party's nomination, Gov. Kasich on Monday again reiterated that he has no plans to get out of the race.

Speaking on CNN's "New Day" on Monday morning, the governor said a brokered convention will be "an extension of this primary process."

"If I'm the only one that can beat Hillary in the fall, why would anybody say I should leave? I mean that's just -- that's nuts," he said.

Agency Briefs: AG Rejects Another Pot Petition; Review Of EPA Rules Delayed; Painesville Man Busted For Workers' Comp Fraud; Ballot Board To Meet; Sebring Gets Funds

Attorney General Mike DeWine on Monday rejected petition language for a ballot measure to make medicinal marijuana legal in Ohio.

The petition, Medicinal Cannabis and Industrial Hemp Amendment, was submitted by Grassroots OH with more than 2,000 signatures.

However, Mr. DeWine found two defects in the summary language, including the lack of references to proposed amendment language that "industrial hemp and medicinal cannabis shall be researched, regulated, and promoted by the state in a manner substantially similar to other agricultural crops" and another section that states 21-year-olds have "equal opportunity to access, ownership, and employment."

On Friday, Mr. DeWine rejected petition language filed by Ohio Medical Cannabis Care LLC based on 11 defects. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 18, 2016)

Since 2011, Mr. DeWine has rejected petition language for 13 measures dealing with marijuana.

A decision on the proposed language of another medical marijuana ballot measure is scheduled to be released Friday.

JCARR: Amid concerns raised by some municipalities, the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review put off a hearing on Ohio EPA rules that came out of legislation (SB 1) designed to deal with toxic algal bloom in Lake Erie.

The regulations include monitoring and reporting of harmful algal blooms in public water systems.

"We just felt there had to be a few more questions asked," Chairman Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) said following the meeting.

According to Sen. Uecker, the rules are expected to be back on the agenda for review at the April 4 meeting.

Bureau of Workers' Compensation: A Lake County man was convicted of workers' compensation fraud after the agency's Special Investigations Department captured video of him working as a handyman.

Mark Walker, who was receiving temporary total disability, was ordered to repay nearly \$75,000 in benefits he collected over a five-year period. He was also sentenced to 12 to 18 months incarceration, which was suspended for three years of community control.

"The purpose of temporary total disability is to give injured workers time to recuperate, and work activity during that recovery period is prohibited," BWC Administrator/CEO Steve Buehrer said. "Mr. Walker deceptively returned to employment for several years and continued to collect thousands of dollars from BWC."

Secretary of State: The Ballot Board is scheduled to meet Wednesday and will take up two ballot measures, one a proposed initiative designed to boost the clean energy industry and the other a proposed constitutional amendment that would ban former lawmakers from lobbying for two years after leaving office, and cap most legislators' pay at the annual median household income in Ohio.

Sebring Water Grant: The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded the Village of Sebring a \$400,000 grant to assist with water quality improvements, a development welcomed by state and federal lawmakers.

"This grant will help provide much needed upgrades to Sebring's water system but the work is far from over," Senate Minority Leader Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) said in a statement. "We need to acknowledge that water quality issues will continue to plague our communities until our state makes an honest investment into fixing our crumbling underground water and sewer infrastructure."

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman stated, "I'm pleased that federal authorities are helping Sebring ensure its water supply is safe. As we move forward, I hope the Senate will act in a bipartisan way to help Ohio and other areas of the country who have similar needs. I will continue to work in a bipartisan manner to ensure that all Ohioans have access to clean and safe drinking water."

Lead-tainted water in the village and officials' slow reaction in alerting residents has led to fallout at the local level, where the Ohio EPA announced violations, and at the state level, where two agency employees were fired following a review of the circumstances. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 17, 2016)

At the federal level, both Mr. Portman and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon) have backed related legislation on clean water issues, which have come to the forefront in recent months due to lead tainted water in Flint, Mich., Sebring and elsewhere. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 3, 2016)

Politics Notebook: Ramos Looks To Add Early Voting Sites; Portman On Air With Web Ad, Defends Supreme Court Decision; Clyde Up For Award

One state lawmaker is advocating for an increased number of early voting sites.

Rep. Dan Ramos plans legislation that would allow counties to have one early voting location for every 60,000 residents. The additional early voting sites would require the approval of a county board of commissioners or, in case of Cuyahoga and Summit counties, the chartered governing body.

"With early voting for the primary recently concluding in Ohio, I believe it is time to examine and address an inequality in the system," he said. "With such variation in population, a 'one-size fits all' approach that limits the number of early voting centers does not adequately encourage public participation in the democratic process."

Under the proposal, 23 counties would be eligible to open at least one additional early voting center, according to Rep. Ramos.

"Voting is a right central to what makes us American, and this bill expands access to that right," Ramos said. "Allowing more early voting locations closer to home will benefit both

suburban and township voters outside of the city center, as well as lower income voters with limited transportation options."

Senate Race: The campaign of Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) is up with a web ad touting his work to help Hebron-based ArmorSource secure a federal contract.

According to the ad, the company has added 200 jobs since inking the deal.

In a Sunday op-ed for the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, Sen. Portman defended his decision to join with fellow Senate Republicans in refusing to hold hearings on President Barack Obama's choice to fill the seat of former Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

"I have concluded that the best thing for the country is to trust the American people to weigh in and to have the confirmation process take place in a less partisan atmosphere," he wrote. "Awaiting the result of a democratic election, rather than having a nomination fight in this contentious election-year environment, will give the nominee more legitimacy and, as then - Senator Biden pointed out, better preserve the institutional credibility of the Senate and the court."

The decision has earned praise from the Judicial Crisis Network, which is launching a \$2 million TV, radio and digital ad campaign in six states, including Ohio.

"The goal of this effort is to inform and alert the citizens of Ohio that in opposing President Obama's third liberal nominee to the Supreme Court, Senator Portman is also opposing liberal domination of the court and that, with the presidential election so close, he is right to allow the people of Ohio a voice in this lifetime appointment to the nation's highest court," Carrie Severino, chief counsel for JCN and a former U.S. Supreme Court clerk, said in a statement.

"As a federal judge, Garland has made rulings undermining the Second Amendment rights of Ohioans as well as defended expansive, unchecked power of federal agencies such as the EPA, decisions that harm Ohio small businesses," she continued.

The move has drawn criticism from Democrats, including Sen. Portman's general election opponent, former Gov. Ted Strickland. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 16, 2016)

Sen. Portman also announced on Monday the addition of Michawn Rich as his campaign's communications director.

"We are very excited to have Michawn Rich join us as we kick off the general election," campaign manager Corry Bliss said. "Michawn's discipline and experience in competitive races - including 2014's most competitive congressional race in the country - will be a great addition to our team. She is a seasoned communicator who will help us contrast Rob's vision for a brighter future with why Ohio can't go back to Ted Strickland's Ohio when the state lost over 350,000 jobs and ranked 48th in job creation."

Clyde Nominated For Award: Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon) on Monday urged people to vote for Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent) to receive the Gabrielle Giffords Rising Star Award by EMILY's List.

"Kathleen is one of Ohio's biggest rising stars. She's an outspoken advocate for voting rights, and even in our state's conservative legislature, Kathleen has proven an effective fighter for Ohio's women and workers," he said.

Ms. Clyde also announced that she will make stops in Columbus, Cleveland and Cincinnati with author Ari Berman to discuss his new book, *Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America*.

Capitol Scene: Former Dispatch Editor Marrison Joins Yost Team

State Auditor Dave Yost said Monday he's hired Ben Marrison, the former *Columbus Dispatch* editor, as his communications director.

He replaces Carrie Bartunek, who was named senior policy adviser for public affairs.

"Ben's extensive media experience and management expertise will be a great addition to our office," Auditor Yost said in a statement. "He is a trusted name in Columbus and all over the state of Ohio, and we are fortunate to have him join our team."

Mr. Marrison, 52, previously worked for the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* and *Toledo Blade*. He starts his new post April 4 with an annual salary of \$105,000.

"The state auditor's office embodies those things that I always tried to do as a journalist: be transparent, provide public access and hold people accountable. I have a great deal of respect for the way Dave Yost has conducted himself as state auditor and as Delaware County prosecutor. His decisions are rooted in doing the right things by taxpayers without regard to politics," Marrison said.

"The position of director of communications provides me the opportunity to continue my public service, to help citizens understand how their money is being spent, and to better understand government operations -- something I've been fascinated with since my earliest days as a reporter."

Mr. Marrison, a Pickerington resident, holds a journalism degree from Bowling Green State University.

Attorney General's Opinion

No. 2016-010. Requested by Paulding County Prosecuting Attorney Joseph R. Burkard.
SYLLABUS:

The judges of a court of common pleas, in the reasonable exercise of their discretion, may expend moneys generated by the court's special projects fee imposed pursuant to R.C. 2303.201(E)(1) to purchase incentives that reward a participant's compliance with the terms of the court's drug court program, provided the judges determine that the incentives contribute to the efficient operation of the court.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Wednesday, March 23

Ballot Board, Senate Finance Haring Rm., Senate Bldg., Columbus, 2:30 p.m. (The board will meet to determine whether each of the proposed constitutional amendments known as the "Ohio Clean Energy Initiative" and the "Ohio Ethics First Amendment" contain only one proposed amendment.)

Thursday, March 24

BWC Nominating Council, Conf. Rms. B&C, 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 1 p.m.

Thursday, April 7

Optical Dispensers Board, 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Wednesday, April 6

Senate Republican candidate Frank Hoagland fundraiser, The Galley, 203 Second St., Marietta, 4:30 p.m., (Host - \$1,000; Sponsor - \$500; Individual - \$350 to Hoagland for Ohio)

Tuesday, April 12

Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP Legislative Reception, 52 East Gay St., Columbus, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, April 19

Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host - \$1,000; Sponsor - \$500; Individual - \$350 to The Committee to Elect Joe Uecker)

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the " " after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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House Activity for Monday, March 21, 2016

INTRODUCED

HB 492 ■ **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS** (Rogers, J., Driehaus, D.) To create the Supplemental State Capital Improvements Pilot Program funded by a temporary transfer from the Budget Stabilization Fund and to make an appropriation. Am. 131.43, 131.44, and 164.01 and to enact section 164.18.

HB 493 ■ **CHILD ABUSE REPORTING** (Sears, B., Ryan, S.) To make changes in the child abuse and neglect reporting law. Am. 307.627, 2151.421, 2151.422, 2151.99, 3701.701, 5153.16, 5153.175, and 5153.176.

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Senate Activity for Monday, March 21, 2016

INTRODUCED

SB 297 

STUDENT EXPULSIONS (Hughes, J.) With respect to the expulsion of a student from a school district, community school, or STEM school for communicating a threat of violence to occur on school grounds: Am. 3313.66 and 3313.661 and to enact section 3313.668.

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Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, March 22

Legislative Committees

~~Canceled:~~ Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Faber, K., 466-7584),
Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.

~~Canceled:~~ Senate Session (Chr. Faber, K., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

- If needed

Agency Calendar

Board of Building Appeals, Division of Industrial Compliance, 6606 Tussing Road,
Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 8 a.m.

Event Planner

Presidential primaries/caucuses in Arizona, Utah & Idaho (Democratic)

ACLU of Ohio and Ohio Justice and Policy Center news conference to release
criminal justice report, Judicial Room, Sheraton at Capitol Square, 75 E. State St.,
Columbus, 10 a.m.

Rep. Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) and Rep. Janine Boyd (D-Cleveland Hts.) news
conference on bill to remove firearms in certain domestic violence situations,
Ladies Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 10:30 a.m.

Rep. Greta Johnson (D-Akron) and Sen. Capri Cafaro (D-Hubbard) news
conference on gender diversification legislation, Ladies Gallery, Statehouse,
Columbus, 2 p.m.

Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Tally
Ho Room, 136 East Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Event Host \$1,000; Event
Sponsor \$500; Individual Attendee \$350 to Troy Balderson for State Senator)

Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) fundraiser, Athletic Club, Gold Rm., 136 E. Broad
St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$1,000, \$500 or \$350 to Citizens for Hottinger)

Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Columbus) fundraiser, Athletic Club, Crystal Rm., 136 E.
Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$1,000, \$500 or \$350 to Citizens for Kevin Bacon)

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) fundraiser, Claddaugh, 585 S. Front St.,
Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Hoste: \$1,000; Sponsor \$500; Individual attendee: \$350 to
Friends of Bill Coley)

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From: Adams, Alexandra
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2016 4:06 PM
To: Slack, Cora; Best, Carolyn; Smith, Kristen; Westlake, Libby; Bergmann, Amanda; Knisley, Robert
Subject: RE: ALERT: Hood Fair (Printing @ 4:30)

State Representative Ron Hood is serving his 6th term in the Ohio House. Hood ~~has been elected twice by~~ represents *(otherwise, it's confusing to the average person how it's his 6th term, but only elected twice)* the 78th House District, which encompasses Hocking and Morgan counties, as well as portions of Athens, Fairfield, Muskingum and Pickaway counties.

Representative Hood is member of the Commerce and Labor Committee, Community and Family Advancement Committee, Rules and Reference Committee, and State Government Committee.

He has received numerous awards during his time in the House, including the Outstanding Conservative Freshman Legislator, the Frank Lausche Young Conservative Award, National Right to Work Legislator of the Year, National Association for Gun Rights Legislator of the Year, Faith to Action Braveheart Award and 4 Watchdog of the Treasury awards.

Representative Hood resides in Ashville with his wife, Michal. They have five children: Ellah, Edward, Judah, Quinne and Wesley.

From: Slack, Cora
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2016 3:56 PM
To: Best, Carolyn; Adams, Alexandra; Smith, Kristen; Westlake, Libby; Bergmann, Amanda; Knisley, Robert
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Hi all –

I'm sending these to print at 4:30. If someone could look these over and let me know if any edits are needed, that would be much appreciated.

Thanks!

Cora Slack

Constituent Services Advisor
Ohio House of Representatives
614-466-3800

From: Slack, Cora
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2016 4:12 PM
To: Adams, Alexandra; Best, Carolyn; Smith, Kristen; Westlake, Libby; Bergmann, Amanda; Knisley, Robert
Subject: RE: ALERT: Hood Fair (Printing @ 4:30)

Thanks!

Cora Slack

Constituent Services Advisor
Ohio House of Representatives
614-466-3800

From: Adams, Alexandra
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2016 4:06 PM
To: Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Smith, Kristen <Kristen.Smith@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Bergmann, Amanda <Amanda.Bergmann@ohiohouse.gov>; Knisley, Robert <Robert.Knisley@ohiohouse.gov>
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Constituent Services Advisor
Ohio House of Representatives
614-466-3800

From: Thawley, Roanna
Sent: Friday, June 24, 2016 1:53 PM
To: Thawley, Roanna
Subject: Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work
Attachments: Co-sponsor Request_Public Sector Right to Work_Becker.pdf



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker
Date: June 24, 2016
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work

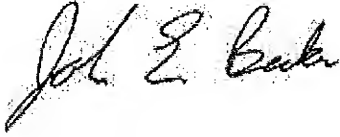
I will soon be introducing a public sector right-to-work bill.

This legislation:

- Provides public sector workers the choice to opt out of union representation and dues.
- Allows non-union employees to voluntarily make financial contributions to a union.
- Protects unions from the requirement of representing non-union employees.
- Appropriates \$30,000 in fiscal year 17 for pamphlets and brochures.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Roanna Thawley at (614) 466-8134 or Roanna.Thawley@ohiohouse.gov. The deadline to co-sponsor is COB, Wednesday, June 29, 2016.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Becker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent.

John Becker
65th House District

Roanna Thawley

Legislative Aide

State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65

77 S. High Street, 12th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215

(614) 466-8134

roanna.thawley@ohiohouse.gov

Ohio House of Representatives



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker
Date: June 24, 2016
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work

I will soon be introducing a public sector-right-to-work bill.

This legislation:

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Thank you for your consideration.

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John Becker
65th House District

From: Thawley, Roanna
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2016 1:51 PM
To: Thawley, Roanna
Subject: REMINDER: Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work
Attachments: Co-sponsor Request_Public Sector Right to Work_Becker.pdf



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker
Date: June 27, 2016
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work

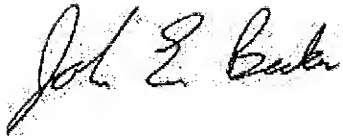
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65th House District

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Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John E. Becker".

John Becker
65th House District

From: report@hannah.com
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 6:35 PM
To: DL_Hannah
Subject: Hannah News Stories for Thursday, June 30, 2016

Thursday, June 30, 2016

IN TODAY'S HANNAH REPORT:

Please click here to read the entire Hannah Report.

Today's Stories

- [ODAg Shifts Exotic Animal Enforcement Focus to Smaller Facilities](#)
- [CSRAB Launches Committee to Review Statehouse Art, Mulls Themed Lighting](#)
- [Lawsuit Backers Challenging Voter Purge Weigh Appeal](#)
- [ACLU Praises Revised RNC Rules after Successful Challenge](#)
- [Becker Introduces 'Right to Work' for Public Employees](#)
- [SAK Testing Nabs Serial Rapist, Secures Forensic Center Grant](#)
- [ODE Releases Overview of Report Card Components Due for First Letter Grades in September](#)
- [Portman-Led Investigation Finds Cable Companies Overbilled Ohio, National Customers](#)
- [Stateline: Amid Opioid Epidemic, More Schools Offer 'Sober Dorms'](#)
- [State Government Roundup: ODOT](#)
- [People in the News: Stu Davis](#)
- [Executive Actions: Appointments](#)

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From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Friday, July 1, 2016 8:23 AM
To: Slack, Cora
Subject: Gongwer News Service Ohio Media Clips



Ohio News & Opinion For July 1, 2016

News

[New attorneys' fees in Ohio to fund legal aid for poor \(Associated Press, 7/1/2016\)](#)

[How will medical marijuana affect your workplace? \(Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/1/2016\)](#)

[Joe Biden talks health care, praises doctors in Cleveland \(Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016\)](#)

[Obamacare tax hike scheduled to hit retirees next year, but Sens. Brown, Portman want to stop it \(Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016\)](#)

[Rep. John Becker proposes right-to-work bill for public employees \(Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016\)](#)

[Republican National Convention secure zone revealed: Ohio Politics Roundup \(Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016\)](#)

[Rob Portman's campaign, PAC each announce new ads targeting Ted Strickland \(Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016\)](#)

[Sen. Tim Kaine accepted clothes, vacation as gifts: Today's number in politics \(Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016\)](#)

[Senate panel advances Carole Rendon's nomination for U.S. attorney of Ohio's northern district \(Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016\)](#)

[Voting rights activists say election lawsuit claiming Jon Husted illegally purged voters is not over \(Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016\)](#)

Controversial NRA ad attacking Clinton airing mostly in Ohio (Columbus Dispatch, 7/1/2016)

Ohio Politics Now: Will Hillary Clinton consider Richard Cordray as a running mate? (Columbus Dispatch, 7/1/2016)

Portman coal radio ad targets southern Ohio voters (Columbus Dispatch, 7/1/2016)

State, troopers union return to contract talks (Columbus Dispatch, 7/1/2016)

GOP Convention: Who's going to speak? Where are the sponsors? (Dayton Daily News, 7/1/2016)

Local hospitals among hundreds with multiple privacy complaints (Dayton Daily News, 7/1/2016)

Taxpayers shelling out fewer dollars for fireworks displays (Dayton Daily News, 7/1/2016)

Editorials

Commentary: The Supreme Court's Texas abortion ruling reignites a battle over facts (Canton Repository, 7/1/2016)

Six ways to make Ohio's online charter schools more accountable: editorial board (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016)

Perpetuating preferences (Columbus Dispatch, 7/1/2016)

Put babies over politics (Toledo Blade, 7/1/2016)

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From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Friday, July 1, 2016 8:27 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 7/1/2016

HOUSE E-CLIPS

07/01/16



NEW ATTORNEYS' FEES IN OHIO TO FUND LEGAL AID FOR POOR

New attorneys' fees approved by the Ohio Supreme Court will help fund legal services for poor and disadvantaged Ohioans.



STATE, TROOPERS UNION RETURN TO CONTRACT TALKS

The state is heading back to the bargaining table to work on a contract with the Ohio State Troopers Association after the union soundly rejected a tentative agreement.

CITY OF COLUMBUS ISSUES NITRATE WARNING FOR TAP WATER

By 2018, city water officials say, they won't have to issue advisories like the one Thursday, when high nitrate levels in drinking water in parts of the Columbus area triggered a warning for pregnant women and babies.

OHIO POLITICS NOW: WILL HILLARY CLINTON CONSIDER RICHARD CORDRAY AS A RUNNING MATE?

Democrats in Columbus are apparently buzzing with the possibility of another Ohioan being considered as presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton's running mate.

Dayton Daily News
www.daytondailynews.com

OHIO SUPREME COURT TO HEAR SPRINGFIELD RED LIGHT CAMERA LAW CHALLENGE

The Ohio Supreme Court will consider Springfield's challenge to red light camera laws, weighing city leaders' argument that the new regulations violate their local authority.

THE PLAIN DEALER

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL: CITIES CANNOT SET THEIR OWN MINIMUM WAGE

As the debate rages in Cleveland over a proposal to set the city's minimum wage at \$15 an hour starting in January, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine on Thursday issued an opinion stating that municipalities cannot legally set their own minimum wage.

REP. JOHN BECKER PROPOSES RIGHT-TO-WORK BILL FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

And Ohio lawmaker on Thursday introduced a right-to-work bill for public employees. But like a private employee bill proposed last fall, it's unlikely to pass.

VOTING RIGHTS ACTIVISTS SAY ELECTION LAWSUIT CLAIMING JON HUSTED

ILLEGALLY PURGED VOTERS IS NOT OVER

A day after Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted scored a win in federal court, voting rights activists say the case is not over.

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION SECURE ZONE REVEALED: OHIO

POLITICS ROUNDUP

Countdown to Cleveland: With 17 days to go until the start of the Republican National Convention, we now know more about the boundaries of the high security perimeter surrounding Quicken Loans Arena. Read more from cleveland.com's Andrew J. Tobias' report.

SIX WAYS TO MAKE OHIO'S ONLINE CHARTER SCHOOLS MORE ACCOUNTABLE:

EDITORIAL BOARD

Led by state Sen. Peggy Lehner, the downstate Republican who chairs the Ohio Senate's education committee, the Ohio legislature did a yeoman's job last year of shoring up oversight of the state's much-ridiculed kindergarten-through-12th-grade charter school system.

THE ENQUIRER

STATE AUDIT: FOOD STAMPS ISSUED TO 36 DEAD PEOPLE

Dead people, duplicates and out-of-state purchases were just some of the fraudulent activities discovered in an audit of Ohio's food stamp program, according to State Auditor David Yost.

BECKER INTRODUCES PUBLIC RIGHT-TO-WORK BILL

Rep. John Becker knows many fellow Republicans, including Gov. John Kasich, have little interest in an Ohio right-to-work law, but that didn't stop him from offering one anyway.

HOW WILL MEDICAL MARIJUANA AFFECT YOUR WORKPLACE?

Andy Kaplan has been practicing law with the Cincinnati office of Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease for more than 30 years.

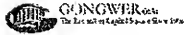
THE BLADE

One of America's Great Newspapers

PANEL WEIGHS SUPPORT FOR CHILD CUSTODY CASES

Deann Sanders' insurance company paid for the diagnosis of her severely autistic son at the age of 2, but offered no coverage for services.

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2016 8:36 AM
To: Slack, Cora
Subject: Gongwer News Service Ohio-Media Clips



Ohio News & Opinion For July 5, 2016

News

Ohio usually a swing state, nearly always a bellwether (Associated Press, 7/5/2016)

Ohio's new schools superintendent gets on the job, looking for input from educators (Canton Repository, 7/5/2016)

Portman, Strickland focus on Ohio's drug crisis in Senate campaigns (Canton Repository, 7/5/2016)

Ad Watch: NRA says Strickland 'sold out' (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/5/2016)

Becker introduces public right-to-work bill (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/5/2016)

Trump announces visit to Sharonville Convention Center (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/5/2016)

'Raise Up Cleveland' continues \$15 minimum wage campaign, despite attorney general's opinion: Ohio Politics Roundup (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/5/2016)

No statewide ballot measures planned for Ohio's November election (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/5/2016)

Prospective new political parties in Ohio face filing deadline: What to watch for Tuesday (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/5/2016)

Republican National Convention secure zone revealed: Ohio Politics Roundup (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/5/2016)

Capitol Insider: Even after Kasich's campaign, state says it can't tally, release security bill (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

Capitol Insider: Who in Ohio Democratic Party helped John Raphael? (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

Dispute over school funding embroils new federal education law (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

Medicaid tax change to cost Ohio, counties (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

Ohio quietly gave larger raises to non-union managers (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

Portman, Strickland focus on Ohio's drug crisis in Senate campaigns (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

State asks feds for permission to charge new Medicaid fees (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

GOP Convention: Who's going to speak? Where are the sponsors? (Dayton Daily News, 7/5/2016)

Ohio law requires Tdap, meningitis shots (Toledo Blade, 7/5/2016)

Portman launching \$1M TV ad campaign (Toledo Blade, 7/5/2016)

Editorials

Voices of protest in Cleveland (Akron Beacon Journal, 7/5/2016)

Impact of heroin addiction on driving statistics (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/5/2016)

George Voinovich's legacy of collaborative politics must be revived: Joe Lieberman (Opinion) (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/5/2016)

Ohio's restrictive abortion-clinic laws need to be revised after Supreme Court's Texas ruling: editorial (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/5/2016)

Trump's message resonates in Ohio coal country: Thomas Suddes (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/5/2016)

New rules to let drone use soar (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

Voters want to rein in government (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

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From: Ohio House Republican Communications
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2016 1:04 PM
Subject: Week in Review 6/27/16 – 7/4/16



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

GOP Week in Review

6/27/16 – 7/4/16

The Vindicator: New Ohio state laws and their impact, to take effect in August, September

There were big bills that were signed into law – a \$2.6 billion capital budget with projects across the states, and a fast-paced medical marijuana effort that will add Ohio to the list of states allowing the drug for specified medical conditions.

Sandusky Register: Sandusky State Theatre will be upgraded soon

State Sen. Randy Gardner, R-Bowling Green, and state Rep. Steve Arndt, R-Port Clinton, both included the Sandusky State Theatre in a list of local projects that needed support.

Enquirer: Becker introduces public right-to-work bill

Becker, R-Union Township in Clermont County, called his proposal a "win-win" for both sides: it would allow public sector workers to opt out of union representation and dues. But those who opt out would not be eligible for union protections.

Akron Legal News: New heroin law takes aim at drug dealers

"This legislation will hold the drug dealers who are poisoning our neighborhoods accountable while we continue to help the addicted seek treatment," said Rep. Jonathan Dever, R-Madeira, a sponsor of the bill. "There is no silver bullet for ridding Ohio of heroin, but this law is a part of a solution that includes education and treatment options."

Journal-News: New addiction treatment center opens in West Chester

State Rep. Margy Conditt, R-Liberty Twp, was also at the ribbon-cutting and she feels that Lumiere can help save lives and will be a benefit to Butler County.

Dispatch: Law fills a gap in paramedic care

He and state Rep. Tim Ginter, R- Salem, were especially concerned that paramedics couldn't provide an antidote to police dogs that, while working, were poisoned by prescription pain drugs or heroin.

Ellwood City Ledger: New law supports first responders who treat injured pets

Ohio's law, which follows a similar action by Colorado in 2014, came about after Bob Swickard, the director of an EMS service in a small town in northeastern Ohio, contacted state Republican Rep. Tim Ginter with concerns about a recent rash of on-duty injuries to police dogs.

Springfield News-Sun: Buck Creek State Park gets \$1.4M in upgrades

The state held a dedication ceremony for the cabins at the state park Thursday.

The Independent: Rep. Christina Hagan shepherds Epi-pen bill

House Bill 200, sponsored by State Rep. Christina Hagan, permits public establishments, such as restaurants, swimming pools, schools and amusement parks, to carry a non-patient specific prescription to keep epinephrine, which can be administered via an injector known as an Epi-Pen.

Times Reporter: Column from Rep. Andy Thompson: Celebrating our country this Fourth of July

On this day, the 240th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, people all across the nation engage in traditional celebrations of our nation's independence, with cookouts, fireworks, parades and the like.

The Vindicator: New law allows Ohioans to drink higher-alcohol content beer

Here are 10 more of 60 law changes OK'd before lawmakers left Columbus for their summer recess, with most set to take effect in August or September.

Dispatch: Hit-skip law wrecks create challenges for investigators who piece cases together

State Rep. Brian Hill, a Zanesville Republican, and Ohio Sen. John Eklund, a Republican from Geauga County, pushed for the changes. Fleeing the scene of a crash that causes serious injury or death is now a second-degree felony, which could carry as much as an 8-year sentence.

Heartland News: Ohio Lawmakers Approve Civil Asset Forfeiture Reforms

State Rep. Robert McColley (R-Napoleon) says the current system violates Ohioans' property and due process rights.

Journal-News: Hamilton natural gas customers dodge 10 percent rate hike

Gov. John Kasich signed a bill Tuesday that will spare Hamilton's natural-gas customers a 10-percent rate increase. "He signed it around 4:30 yesterday afternoon," state Rep.

Wes Retherford, R-Hamilton, said Wednesday. Retherford and Rep. Tim Schaffer, R-Lancaster, who both live in cities with municipal gas utilities, sponsored the legislation.

Akron Beacon Journal: Kasich signs expanded movie-production credit for Ohio

"We are grateful to Governor Kasich, the Ohio House, and the Ohio Senate for giving us this opportunity to continue to grow a thriving and adaptive media industry in Northeast Ohio. I'd also like to thank Speaker Cliff Rosenberger, Rep. Kirk Schuring, and Sen. Tom Patton, who have championed this legislation, and know just how much a sustainable media industry can benefit Ohio."

Record-Herald: CACFC celebrates 'National Homeownership Month'

Community Action Commission of Fayette County (CACFC) celebrated National Homeownership Month on June 24 by hosting an open house at the newly constructed home of Damian (Scott) and Ashley Forsha and their children. Also present were Marty Heide, representing Congressman Michael Turner, and State Rep. Gary Scherer was also in attendance.

Times Reporter: Leaders from three counties, Ohio are inching closer to making progress on Route 30

Last year, state Rep. Kirk Schuring, R-Jackson Township, was influential in getting legislation passed that created a Regional Transportation Improvement Project. Now three counties — Stark, Carroll and Columbiana — have signed a cooperative agreement with a county commissioner from each to form the co-op.

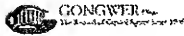
Daily Sentinel: Field of Hope breaks new ground

State and federal officials appeared from the offices of Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, state Rep. Ryan Smith, Congressman Bill Johnson, Sen. Rob Portman, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Gallipolis Municipal Court.

The Blade: Accessible-for-all playground a first in northwest Ohio

The renovation of Lakeview Park makes it northwest Ohio's first fully accessible playground. Also present were state Rep. Steven Arndt (R., Port Clinton) and Port Clinton Mayor Hugh Wheeler, Jr. An aide to U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D., Toledo) presented two flags that had flown over the U.S. Capitol in honor of the park's reopening.

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2016 6:14 PM
To: Slack, Cora
Subject: Ohio Report, Tuesday, July 5, 2016
Attachments: Jul5.htm; Jul5Senate.htm; 160705dayplan.htm



Ohio Report for Tuesday, July 5, 2016

Supreme Court To Hear Second Traffic Camera Case; City Of Springfield Argues Home Rule Hangs In The Balance

After NEOCH Decision, Seitz Suggests Lawmakers Implement Photo ID Requirements For Voting

Legislation Aligns Health Assessments For Hospitals, Public Health Districts In Effort To Improve Population Health Planning

Ohio's Competitive Marketplace Driving Lower-Than-Average Policy Rates, Insurance Leaders Say

Clinton To Open Ohio Campaign Offices, Leads Trump In Latest Fundraising Numbers

Politics Notebook: FBI Recommends No Charge Over Clinton Emails; ODP Blasts Latest Right-To Work Attempt; Advocates Press Kasich For Action On Hunger...

Activity Reports

Senate

Calendars

Day Planner

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Volume #85, Report #128 -- Tuesday, July 5, 2016

Supreme Court To Hear Second Traffic Camera Case; City Of Springfield Argues Home Rule Hangs In The Balance

The state's high court has agreed to take up a second challenge to a law that has all but eliminated the use of traffic cameras by municipalities.

The Ohio Supreme Court will hear arguments from the city of Springfield that a measure (SB342, 130th General Assembly) that requires a police officer to be present where traffic cameras are operating violates home rule and is not a general law.

In its memorandum in support of jurisdiction, the city called the law "a thinly veiled attempt to destroy local traffic-camera programs."

The city, which established its traffic camera program in 2005 at 10 intersections with high crash rates, sued over the law in Clark County Common Pleas Court but lost. It then took its case to the Second District Court of Appeals, where it again was unsuccessful.

The city now argues that if the appellate court decision is upheld, it could cripple the concept of home rule throughout the state.

"The Second District's decision erroneously reduces municipal authority and would return cities and villages to the position they were in before the people of the state of Ohio changed their constitution in 1912," the city wrote.

The city also makes the case that a "state statute with the principal purpose and effect of limiting municipal authority is not a general law to which municipal ordinances must yield."

"The Legislative Service Commission told the General Assembly that a single section of the bill, the section requiring a police officer to be present at the camera site, would cost municipalities \$73 million. The police officer sitting at the intersection has no role in the photo-enforcement process," the city wrote. "Inexplicably, SB342 requires that the officer sitting idly at a camera site must be a full-time officer. These provisions serve only one purpose - to burden photo-enforcement programs with excessive costs so that cities and villages will abandon them."

The court declined to take up a third proposition of law on whether a municipality has standing to seek a declaratory judgment declaring a state statute to be an unconstitutional incursion of its power of local self-government even where the statute does not conflict with a municipal ordinance.

In an amicus brief filed with the court in support of jurisdiction, the Ohio Municipal League and the city of Dayton, which is engaged in its own litigation over the law, also make the case that the concept of home rule is at stake. The city of Toledo has also filed an amicus brief in support of jurisdiction in the case.

"This matter extends well beyond a municipality's ability to adopt and enforce automatic traffic enforcement programs," the Dayton and OML filing states. "If the Second District's decision stands, it would give the General Assembly authority to legislatively eliminate constitutionally-provided home rule powers, specifically, those powers that are purely local."

The state, however, in its memorandum in response to jurisdiction called the lawsuit "a companion to the attack on the state's comprehensive regulation of traffic cameras."

"Like Dayton, its arguments rest on exaggerated conceptions of its home rule authority and distorted views of S.B. 342," the attorney general's office writes.

The state also deemed both lawsuits to be "quixotic attempts to redefine the court's teachings on police power regulations and standing."

After NEOCH Decision, Seitz Suggests Lawmakers Implement Photo ID Requirements For Voting

Following a federal judge's decision that struck down three provisions contained in election-related legislation that he says placed undue burdens on certain voters, one GOP lawmaker said it may be time to go with a "more rigorous" identification requirement blessed by the nation's high court.

One of the provision struck down required voters accurately complete all five fields on the provisional ballot affirmation and absentee identification envelope before their ballots could be counted, which Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) said in an interview were for identification purposes.

Since that has been deemed unconstitutional, Sen. Seitz said lawmakers may have no choice but to go the voter ID route.

"This constant meddling in our state election laws ultimately means that you have to resort to something the Supreme Court has already blessed," he said. "I suppose you leave us no choice but to go the photo ID route."

Sen. Seitz said the identification measure struck down was designed to prevent voter fraud. He said the federal government refuses to tell the secretary of state's office if a Social Security number corresponds to an illegal alien.

"We have precious little protection against voting by illegal aliens," he said.

But Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent) said requiring state-issued IDs to cast ballots will be a waste of taxpayer dollars.

"This is more bluster and bullying of Ohio's voters from Senator Seitz, who has been deeply involved with most of the anti-voter legislation that the courts have thrown out over the last several years," she said. "Photo-only voter ID legislation is wrong for Ohio. It's not necessary, it's discriminatory, and it would cost the state and voters millions of dollars to implement."

U.S. District Court Judge Algenon L. Marbley's ruling, which struck down two other provisions in election-related legislation passed during the previous General Assembly, is being appealed. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 8, 2016)

Along with throwing out the provisional ballot requirements, the judge delivered a harsh critique of voting law trends in Ohio over the last several years, saying "the Republican-controlled General Assembly's frenetic pace of introducing such legislation reflects questionable motives, given the wealth of other problems facing the state which actually needed solutions."

"If the dog whistles in the General Assembly continue to get louder, courts considering future challenges to voting restrictions in Ohio may very well find that intentional discrimination is afoot," he wrote.

Sen. Setiz, however, said he and his colleague do not have any intention to put a moratorium on election-related legislation.

"Please be assured we are not going to be delinquent in doing our duty to the people of Ohio," he said.

He also denied there was a racial motivation behind the legislation, noting that another federal court judge found the provision to be constitutional.

"This is just another example of the double-standard that activist judges who might be better suited to be legislators are following in their zeal to do the will of the Ohio Democratic Party," he said.

Josh Eck, spokesman for Secretary of State Jon Husted, said the appeals process should be allowed to play out.

"Secretary Husted certainly understands Senator Seitz's frustration with the federal court's intrusion into Ohio's elections, which is why he has appealed the ruling," he said. "Once the appeal is decided and the 2016 election is over, we can calmly assess what law changes will be necessary to ensure a balance in our election system where it is both easy to vote and hard to cheat."

Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon) recently took to the Senate floor to call on his colleagues to pass an updated version of the Voting Rights Act. During his speech, he commented

on Judge Marbley's ruling and railed again voting "laws passed by an ultra-conservative state legislature in Columbus."

"We're the only advanced democracy in the world where there's actually efforts to restrict access to the ballot box," he said.

A voter ID bill has already been introduced this General Assembly. The measure (HB 189), put forth by Rep. Andrew Brenner (R-Powell), has yet to receive a committee hearing.

Legislation Aligns Health Assessments For Hospitals, Public Health Districts In Effort To Improve Population Health Planning

Nonprofit hospitals and local health districts will have to complete health assessments along the same three-year cycles starting next year, according to legislation signed recently by Gov. John Kasich.

The requirement was part of a broader budget update bill (HB 390) the governor signed Tuesday. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 28, 2016)

Aligning the assessment periods is designed to make it easier for hospitals and their local public health officials to work together on setting priorities, according to the Governor's Office of Health Transformation.

Hospitals have already been conducting their health assessments in three-year cycles, but local health districts have been doing so on five-year cycles. The change eliminates one of the barriers to cooperation between hospitals and local health districts, said Beth Bickford, executive director of the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners.

"The whole idea is to encourage hospitals and local health departments, both of which have requirements in this regard, to try to work more closely together and to get their planning aligned so hopefully they can feed off each other's work and get some synergy in communities to achieve their health outcomes," she said in an interview.

"It is a bit of a daunting task to completely solve the problem, but I think this effort to set the three-year interval is an effort to try to at least align things from a timing perspective," she added.

There are other hurdles that hinder cooperation, she said, including geography. Hospitals and health districts don't always serve the same areas.

John Palmer, a spokesman for the Ohio Hospital Association, said hospitals already work with health districts on community health assessments, but the change will make that cooperation even easier.

"This new provision will strengthen involvement and support collaboration for our members and their partners that will benefit Ohioans and our communities," he said in an email.

One concern for local public health officials is the added cost and effort of producing the assessments every three years as opposed to every five, Ms. Bickford said.

"They're concerned about taxing their community partners with a process that is a time investment," she said. "There's a fair amount of concern about the extra time, money and asking others to commit their time as well to have it done more frequently."

The assessments look at a number of health factors affecting their communities, including rates of smoking, chronic conditions, risk factors and infectious diseases, Ms. Bickford said. Getting better information and coordinating efforts more will improve the picture health officials have of their communities' concerns.

"We can do a better job of seeing whether or not we're moving the needle on some of these health indicators," she said.

The change is also part of a broader state goal of aligning health assessments and planning to affect overall population health outcomes, according to a presentation by OHT. That broader goal includes a state health assessment, a draft of which was released last week (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 27, 2016), and a state health improvement plan slated for the fall.

Ohio's Competitive Marketplace Driving Lower-Than-Average Policy Rates, Insurance Leaders Say

Ohio's insurance marketplace is among the largest in the country and a plethora of companies call the state home - both factors that play a part in residents paying lower-than-average rates for casualty and property policies, according to the Department of Insurance.

Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, who also serves as director of ODI, pointed to a recently released 2015 market share report of state-licensed property and casualty groups as proof that Ohio's policies continue to drive low insurance rates and make the state a preferable place to do business.

"We are focused on protecting consumers and fostering a competitive marketplace that is efficiently regulated," she said in a statement. "Positive results are being realized on multiple fronts."

There are nearly 1,000 property and casualty companies in the state's marketplace and about 140 of those are headquartered in Ohio, she said in an ODI release. State Farm, which is headquartered in Indiana, has the largest market share, holding 12.6% of all policies.

Meanwhile, Columbus-based Nationwide and Illinois-based Allstate are tied for second place at 6.7% and Progressive, which is headquartered in Mayfield, had the fourth largest market share, the report shows.

Dean Fadel, vice president of government relations for the Ohio Insurance Institute, said the market share report findings are "another demonstration of the competitive nature of the environment" that has been fostered in the state.

"We have the third most companies in the nation vying for Ohio consumers which is translated to us getting below national average rates on homeowners and auto insurance," he said in an interview. "I think when you factor in the urbanization and the traffic in Ohio, we arguably have the lowest rates in the nation."

"It's a marketplace where companies are allowed to compete, they're allowed to use within the regulatory schemes the most modernized ways of providing the product and we don't have a lot of insolvencies," Mr. Fadel added.

Ohio's average auto and homeowners premiums are \$515 below the national averages, according to a 2013 National Association of Insurance Commissioners analysis. Residents paid an average of \$763 for homeowners insurance and \$659 for auto insurance.

Employment opportunities have also been positively impacted by the state's thriving insurance industry, Ms. Taylor said.

Since 2011, she has led the charge to fill a projected 26,000 new insurance jobs by 2020 through an administration initiative called Insuring Ohio Futures. The effort includes partnerships between higher education institutions and industry leaders to create education and career pathways.

As a result, ODI reported that nine Ohio colleges and universities now offer insurance and risk management programs including bachelor, associate degrees short-term certification programs.

"We have been able to transform the landscape in just a few short years," Ms. Taylor said. "Educational programs exist that are ready to help Ohioans of all ages prepare for and claim good paying insurance jobs."

There are currently about 100,000 Ohioans working in the industry, earning the state the designation of having the seventh highest number of insurance employees in the country, according to an OII analysis. About one-third of those careers are in the property/casualty insurance field that the institute represents.

In total, more than 230 insurance companies in all segments of the industry call Ohio home, the institute reported.

Clinton To Open Ohio Campaign Offices, Leads Trump In Latest Fundraising Numbers

Hillary Clinton out fundraised opponent Donald Trump in the Buckeye State nearly eight-to-one for the month of May - even after the GOP field narrowed and the billionaire solidified himself as the last Republican standing.

Building on that momentum, Ms. Clinton's campaign announced Friday the campaign took in another \$40 million during June and said Tuesday that it will open 11 new offices across the state of Ohio in the coming week.

Those include offices in Cleveland, Toledo and Woodland, with phone banks to be established in Boardman, Canton, Cleveland, Columbus, Hilliard and Trotwood. The campaign will also host a fundraiser in Lebanon and an organizing event in Delaware this week.

Mr. Trump's campaign, however, has been fairly quiet in Ohio, other than the recent hire of state campaign manager Bob Paduchik. The candidate visited the state for the first time post-primary last week. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 29, 2016)

Gov. John Kasich withdrew from the race May 4, clearing the way for Mr. Trump to focus on fundraising and other general election prep rather than seizing delegates. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 26, 2016)

But the latest Federal Election Commission filings from each campaign show that Ms. Clinton, who for much of May was battling Sen. Bernie Sanders for the Democratic nomination, raised \$153,447.22 from Ohioans between May 1-31. During that same time period Mr. Trump raised \$18,722.89 in the state.

Released last week, the numbers already showed that Mr. Trump and Ms. Clinton trailed their primary opponents in fundraising from Ohio donors. Sen. Sanders for example raised \$158,768 in Ohio while Sen. Ted Cruz led the Republican side despite his May 3 withdrawal. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 21, 2016)

As both campaigns shift toward the general election, however, the numbers highlight the breadth of Ms. Clinton's fundraising infrastructure compared to that of Mr. Trump's. The candidates entered June - their first full month as the presumptive nominees of their respective parties - with \$42.46 million in cash on hand for the Clinton campaign and nearly \$1.29 million in cash on hand for the Trump campaign.

Of the 57 states or territories in which both candidates received donations in May, Ms. Clinton raised more money by far in all of those areas. Her filing shows the former secretary of state raised nearly \$15.04 million from 64 territories or states, while Mr. Trump raised \$1.01 million from 56 states or territories along with a \$250 donation from a foreign country.

Ms. Clinton even outperformed Mr. Trump in right-leaning states - such as Texas, in which Ms. Clinton hauled in \$1.4 million compared to Mr. Trump's \$122,251. In their home state of New York, where Ms. Clinton was a U.S. Senator, that trend continued with Ms. Clinton earning nearly \$1.87 million compared to Mr. Trump's \$52,697.

In Ohio, Mr. Trump received donations from 25 counties in May - the largest of which were \$5,150 from Franklin County and \$2,700 each from supporters in Lorain and Miami counties. By comparison, Ms. Clinton earned donors in 76 Ohio counties, with the largest donations coming from urban areas - including \$35,818 from Cuyahoga County, \$29,038 from Hamilton County, and \$27,499 from Franklin County.

In response, the Trump campaign launched a fundraising blitz last week leading up to the second quarter FEC filing deadline of June 30th.

The campaign set a goal of raising \$10 million by the deadline, with the candidate's son, Eric Trump, telling supporters via email, "The truth is we did better than \$11 million and no amount of spin from Crooked Hillary's machine can change that fact."

The Clinton campaign, meanwhile, claims to have raised more than \$40 million during the month of June, with an additional \$28 million raised for the Democratic National Committee and state parties.

"Our first month of general election fundraising proved to be the best of the campaign," Campaign Manager Robby Mook said in a statement. "Thanks to the continued support of nearly 1.6 million people, we have been able to help Democrats build out an organizing infrastructure across the country that will mobilize millions of voters and help elect progressive candidates up and down the ballot."

The campaigns' second quarter filings, due July 15, will further show whether that funding gap persists.

Part of the contrast so far is thanks to Mr. Trump's limited fundraising efforts during the primary season. Although the campaign has accepted donations since it launched last year, it has mostly subsisted on loans from Mr. Trump to the campaign. The June filing shows the campaign has received \$45.7 million in loans from or guaranteed by the candidate during the election cycle.

Gov. Kasich, meanwhile, continues to try to aid down-ballot Republicans, including ally U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park). (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 29, 2016)

A Tuesday email from Kasich's suspended campaign - the second such missive in as many weeks from Kasich for America - highlighted several recent media reports showcasing "Kasich's efforts to help our party maintain the majority in the U.S. Senate and also about Gov. Kasich's ongoing popularity in national polls."

Politics Notebook: FBI Recommends No Charge Over Clinton Emails; ODP Blasts Latest Right-To Work Attempt; Advocates Press Kasich For Action On Hunger...

FBI Director James Comey said Tuesday he is recommending Hillary Clinton not be charged for her handling of classified information via a personal email server while serving as secretary of state.

Still, he strongly chastised the Democratic presumptive nominee and her staff for being "extremely careless" in her handling of sensitive information.

"Although we did not find clear evidence that Secretary Clinton or her colleagues intended to violate laws governing the handling of classified information, there is evidence that they were extremely careless in their handling of very sensitive, highly classified information."

Of the 30,000 emails provided by Ms. Clinton and the State Department in December 2014, the FBI determined 100 emails in 52 email chains contained classified information at the time they were sent or received. Eight of those contained information that was "Top Secret" when sent, 36 contained information that was marked "Secret," and eight contained "Confidential" information.

Director Comey said there were several examples of email communication regarding Top Secret/Special Access Program level information and that it is reasonable for a person in Ms. Clinton's position or her staff to "have known that an unclassified system was no place for that conversation."

Mr. Comey said his recommendation to the Department of Justice, which has the final determination on the matter, was based on a lack of willful intent to violate statute and was reached in "an entirely apolitical and professional way."

"In looking back at our investigations into mishandling or removal of classified information, we cannot find a case that would support bringing criminal charges on these facts," he said. "All the cases prosecuted involved some combination of: clearly intentional and willful mishandling of classified information; or vast quantities of materials exposed in such a way as to support an inference of intentional misconduct; or indications of disloyalty to the United States; or efforts to obstruct justice. We do not see those things here."

A Clinton spokesman said, "We are glad that this matter is now resolved," adding that Ms. Clinton has "long said it was a mistake to use her personal email and she would not do it again."

Republicans at all levels were quick to criticize the FBI's recommendation, with Ohio Republican Party Chairman Matt Borges calling the findings "a clear indictment on Hillary Clinton's lack of preparedness and judgment to be commander-in-chief."

"This wouldn't have been an issue had Hillary Clinton followed the law like everybody else and used a State Department account," Mr. Borges said. "Instead, Hillary Clinton set up an email system less secure than Gmail for herself to evade the rules because she didn't want people to know what she was doing."

Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton likewise criticized the FBI.

"Frankly, there's a disconnect between Comey's devastating findings and his weak recommendation not to prosecute Hillary Clinton," Mr. Fitton said. "Federal prosecutors, independent of politics, need to consider whether to pursue the potential violations of law confirmed by the FBI."

Right to Work: Rep. John Becker (R-Union Twp.) on Friday introduced a bill to make Ohio a right-to-work state, triggering an immediate reaction from state Democrats.

Critics compared the measure (HB 583) to a previous bill that that passed in 2011 only to be overwhelmingly overturned by voters (SB5, 129th General Assembly). Since then, Gov. John Kasich has repeatedly said right-to-work legislation is not on his agenda.

The latest bill would remove any requirement under collective bargaining law that public employees must join or pay dues to any employee organization.

Carolyn Best, spokeswoman for Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), said a decision about where the bill is headed has yet to be made.

"Since the bill was just introduced last week, the Speaker has not yet had a chance to fully review the legislation. When committee and House session resume in the fall, the caucus will discuss the bill further," she said.

Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper called the bill a "sneak attack on Ohio's working families for the lame duck session."

"Ohio Democrats strongly oppose this ideological attack on Ohio's working families, which will drive down wages, benefits and overall living standards for all Ohio worker," Mr. Pepper said. "It's time for real leadership in Ohio, and it's time for Gov. John Kasich to state unequivocally that he will veto any 'right to work' bill that is sent to his desk."

Hunger: Advocates are continuing to lobby Gov. John Kasich to request full federal food assistance for eligible counties and communities.

The call follows a recent Policy Matters Ohio report that examines communities eligible for a federal waiver of time limits in 2017. The deadline for the waiver request is this summer.

But the state has not submitted such requests in the last three years, prompting Policy Matters and others to urge Gov. Kasich to action.

"The failure to request a waiver of time limits in all eligible areas has hurt people in urban areas like Cleveland, but also in rural places, like Vinton County," PMO Senior Project Director Wendy Patton said. "We again call on the Kasich administration to maximize its use of federal resources so that hungry Ohioans can meet their most basic need - food."

Joining in the call were the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, the Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio, the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, the Ohio Poverty Law Center, and the Ohio Council of Churches.

U.S. Senate Race: The campaign of U.S. Sen. Rob Portman launched a \$1 million statewide TV ad campaign aimed at highlighting the Terrace Park Republican's record of "standing up to China and fighting for Ohio Workers."

China and trade have been a sticking point between the incumbent and Democratic challenger and former Gov. Ted Strickland, with both throwing continued barbs at their rival's record on the topic.

The latest ad, called "Steel," focuses on Burke Byer of Cincinnati's Byer Steel as he describes an unfair playing field between American and Chinese workers.

"Our new ad highlights Rob's long record of fighting for Ohio manufacturers and workers like those at Cincinnati's Byer Steel," Portman spokeswoman Michawn Rich said. "Rob is the only candidate in this race with a record of standing up to China. Rob is leading the fight to stop China's currency manipulation and level the playing field on trade so Ohio workers can compete and win."

Supplemental Agency Calendar

No agency meetings scheduled.

Supplemental Event Planner

No events scheduled.

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Senate Activity for Tuesday, July 5, 2016

INTRODUCED

SCR 22 

FIREARMS (Yuko, K.) To urge Congress to enact legislation denying firearms and explosives to suspected terrorists.

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